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14 AUGUST 1985

TO: WASHINGTON

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SUBJECT: NEWS CLIPPINGS - JOSEPH MENGELE

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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INVESTIGACIÓN
Y FOTOS
EXCLUSIVAS

DEL CRIMINAL NAZI EN LA ARGENTINA
(Segunda entrega)

INTE
del 85

¿MENGELE VIVIO EN SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO?

El 5 de julio, el diario "El Liberal" de Santiago del Estero, denunció que Josef Mengele había vivido en la ciudad de La Banda, a pocos kilómetros de la capital. Inmediatamente docenas de antiguos pobladores reconocieron en las fotos de Mengele a Adolfo Gualterio Ascher, un alemán que apareció en 1946 y desapareció, casi misteriosamente, en 1958. Ante la gravedad de la denuncia el juez del crimen, Andrés F. Miotti, abrió el expediente número 2085/85, iniciando la investigación judicial. GENTE recorrió la ciudad de La Banda metro a metro recopilando datos y testimonios sobre la personalidad del supuesto Mengele. El resultado: una historia apasionante y un nuevo enigma que se agrega a la azarosa vida del criminal de guerra más buscado en todo el mundo.

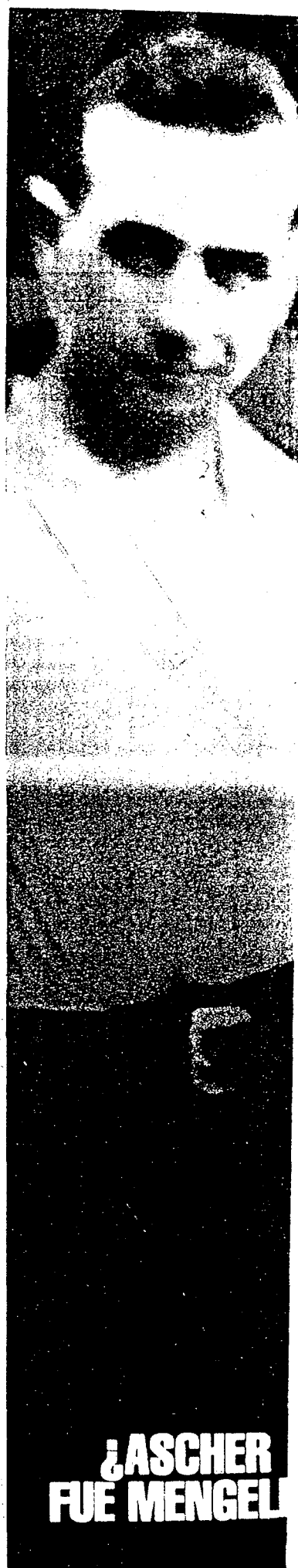
Julio de 1946. José Domínguez sale a la puerta de su finca. El polvo le obliga a entrecerrar los ojos. Por el camino de tierra se acercan dos hombres. A uno de ellos lo reconoce inmediatamente: es el ingeniero Hermann Klein. El segundo jefe de la empresa *Gruend Wilfinger*, que está construyendo el dique Los Quiroga. Al otro es la primera vez que lo ve. De una cosa no tiene dudas: también es "gringo". Sólo los alemanes usan el pelo tan corto y caminan así de erguidos. "Como soldados desfilando" piensa Domínguez. Cuando los tiene más cerca ve que "el gringo" renguea de una pierna. Lo vuelve a ver en diciembre de ese año. Ya como dueño de la finca *San Fernando* y vecino suyo. Vivirán uno junto al otro durante doce años.

En julio de 1985 —treinta y nueve años después— Jesús "Chito" Martínez, periodista de el diario *El Liberal*, de Santiago

del Estero, golpea la puerta de la casa de los Domínguez. Llegó con unas fotos en la mano. José (que tiene 61 años y es abuelo) reconoce a su antiguo vecino: el doctor Adolfo Gualterio Ascher. Pero hay un detalle: esas fotos pertenecen, en realidad, al criminal de guerra Josef Mengele. Domínguez no sale de su asombro. Martínez sonríe complacido. Su intuición periodística acaba de obtener, aparentemente, la primera confirmación: Ascher sería Mengele. El 5 de julio *El Liberal* publica la primera nota sobre la investigación. ¿Mengele vivió en La Banda? Acompañan la nota dos fotos de la casa donde había vivido. El 8, el juez del crimen de La Banda, doctor Andrés F. Miotti, abre el expediente N° 2085/85. "Información sumaria referente al lugar donde habría residido Joseph Mengele." El 16 llega GENTE a Santiago del Estero. Comienza la caza del fugitivo más difícil de atrapar: el pasado de un hombre.

EL HOMBRE DE LOS OJOS DE HIELO

La Banda. Una ciudad a sólo cinco kilómetros de la capital de Santiago. Nació hace 164 años y tiene alrededor de 70.000 habitantes. En verano hace 45 grados a la sombra. En invierno parece que el viento y el polvo fueran a sepultarla en cualquier momento. A la hora de la siesta se acaba el mundo. Sólo el viento camina por las calles. Aquí, el 18 de noviembre de 1946 Adolfo Gualterio Ascher y Hermann Klein compraron una finca. Lo hicieron en la escribanía de Lauro Juan Paz (Entre Ríos al 100, en Santiago) y la escritura tiene el número 344. Allí, frente a testigos, Ascher declaró ser argentino naturalizado, estar casado en primeras nupcias y presenta como documento la Matrícula Individual N° 4.008.418, Distrito Militar N° 1. Compra la finca en 60.000



¿ASCHER
FUE MENGELE

En defensa de las libertades:

NO A LA CENSURA

En los últimos días, la opinión pública ha tomado conocimiento de las expresiones de distintas entidades y medios de comunicación, que han manifestado su preocupación frente a un proyecto originado por el Senador Nacional Ricardo Lafferriere (UCR - Entre Ríos).

Por otra parte, en la Legislatura de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, el diputado Pablo Rebón (UCR), ha presentado un proyecto de características similares al arriba mencionado.

Estas iniciativas implican un avasallamiento de la libertad de prensa, tanto de los editores y directores de medios, como de los profesionales que trabajan en ellos, limitando la tarea de información y elaboración de todo tipo de nota o comentario, introduciendo una autocensura compulsiva.

Por este proyecto no sólo medios y profesionales quedan desprotegidos frente a aquellos que usen de esta poderosa arma sino, lo que es más grave frente al Estado mismo, el que por esta vía se encontrará en condiciones de acallar todo tipo de crítica y allana el camino hacia una uniformidad de la información, contraria a un gobierno de opinión, que es el requisito básico de una democracia constitucional.

Frente a estas manifestaciones, y a otras que se producen en estos últimos tiempos, todas ellas tendientes a avasallar la expresión de los Medios de Comunicación Independientes, la CEMCI señala:

En los Medios de Comunicación Independientes Argentinos, no hay "intereses comprometidos" o dis-

tintos al del ejercicio de su actividad comunicadora con responsabilidad; esto es con nombre y apellido.

La iniciativa planteada, supone una compulsión sobre los medios, restrictiva de las libertades de prensa y expresión, ya que los más graves atentados contra la Libertad de Prensa se han consumado con la excusa de "jerarquizar la libertad de prensa y expresión".

El derecho a Réplica que se pretende instaurar no es "garantía de la verdad", ya que sólo produce otra versión de los hechos, pero no necesariamente la verdadera. Mediante esta instrumentación compulsiva, se pretende instaurar un Derecho en el cual el interesado es Juez y Parte, o sea un Derecho Unilateral absoluto que desconoce límites, y establece el delito de opinión.

El lector, oyente o televidente no está desprotegido, los medios reflejan a diario, a través de entrevistas, opiniones, pedidos de aclaración, rectificaciones, etc., la preocupación de sus Directivos por brindar respuesta responsable al público interesado, pero no como resultados de una imposición.

Si se comprueba la existencia de un posible abuso, éste debe encontrar su limitación y sanción a través del Poder Judicial, que constituye la garantía de todos los derechos de la Ciudadanía.

Esta iniciativa, de concretarse, representaría la posibilidad de una seria limitación a los medios independientes, lo cual hace peligrar su identidad, y por ende el imprescindible servicio que brindan para que la ciudadanía esté bien informada y pueda opinar libremente sobre la gestión pública.

Por lo tanto la CEMCI:

- Se opone a todo intento de contralor político, doctrinario, económico, ideológico o científico que implique un impedimento a la libertad de informar y opinar.
- Exhorta al Poder Legislativo Nacional para que, en su papel de custodio de las libertades públicas, se abstenga de sancionar el proyecto en cuestión, contrario a expresas previsiones constitucionales (Arts. 14 y 32 C.N.).

POR RESPETO A UD. LECTOR, OYENTE, TELEVIDENTE

QUE NO NECESITA DE ACTITUDES PATERNALISTAS PARA EJERCER SU ELECCION ANTE LA PLURALIDAD DE MEDIOS INFORMATIVOS, ASEGUREMOS:

MEDIOS LIBRES PARA UN PAIS LIBRE

AAER	ADIRA	AEDBA	ARPA	ATA
ASOCIACION ARGENTINA DE EDITORES DE REVISTAS	ASOCIACION DE DIARIOS DEL INTERIOR DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA	ASOCIACION DE EDITORES DE DIARIOS DE BUENOS AIRES	ASOCIACION DE RADIODIFUSORAS PRIVADAS ARGENTINAS	ASOCIACION DE TELERADIODIFUSORAS ARGENTINAS

Ascher (izquierda), Mengele (foto mayor) y el expediente que inició el juez Miotti para esclarecer si realmente Mengele fue Ascher.

BARRAGAN

MES JULIO
DIA 8 AÑO 1985
EXPT. N° 2085
INFORMACION SUMARIA
REFERENTE AL CUAR
DONDE HABIA RESIDIDO
JOSE PH MENGELE

pesos y hace una hipoteca por 30.000. (En esa época un tractor costaba 35.000 pesos y un camión con acoplado 20.000 pesos). La finca (en la calle 25 de Mayo prolongación) es uno de los lugares más aislados de la ciudad. Está rodeada de árboles y sólo se puede llegar a ella atravesando caminos de tierra.

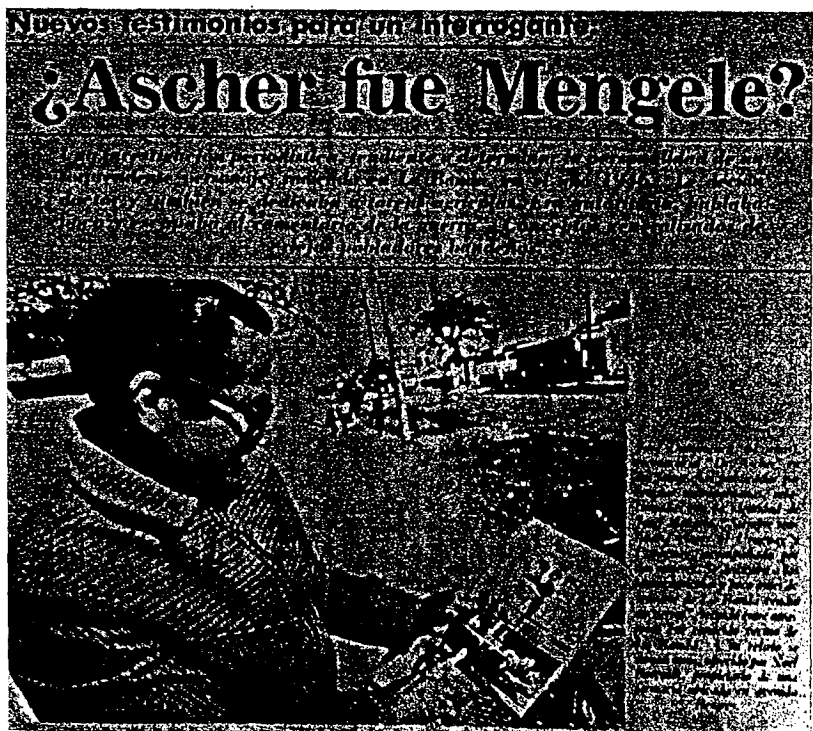
Los bandeños (en ese entonces unos 20.000) observan que el nuevo vecino no llega solo. Al doctor Ascher lo acompañan dos mujeres. Una, que dice llamarse Maria y aparenta ser mayor que él, es su mujer. La otra, Sara, es su ama de llaves. Sobre el aspecto exterior de los tres alemanes los testimonios coinciden en un 80 por ciento. El es de estatura mediana, pelo rubio (algunos dicen que canoso), muy corto, perfectamente afeitado, tiene una deformación en la mano derecha y renguea de una pierna. Camina siempre erguido, con porte militar y tiene ojos claros. Todos coinciden en lo aterrador de su mirada. No necesitaba hablar. Le bastaba mirar a un hombre para darle una orden. Hoy, casi cuarenta años después, los peones cierran los ojos cuando recuerdan esa mirada. Para algunos tenía alrededor de 40 años. Para otros pasaba los 50. (Ascher a su vez declara, en la escritura de su finca, haber nacido el 4 de mayo de 1891. No especifica donde).

De su mujer los pobladores tienen un recuerdo aun más nítido. Cada vez que Maria iba al

¿MENGELE
FUE ASCHER?



El hombre de traje oscuro es Adolfo Guallerio Ascher ¿Ascher es Mengele? Los testigos interrogados por el diario El Liberal así lo creen. La investigación judicial está en marcha. La última palabra se escribirá en el expediente 2085/85



Mercado Unión a vender las rosas o naranjas que cultivaba en su finca las mujeres de La Banda se paraban para mirarla. Era la primera vez que veían "una mujer moderna". María usaba pantalones, fumaba cigarrillos negros, manejaba un sulki, hacía todo tipo de trámite burocrático, lucía un enorme sombrero de ala ancha, era rubia y de pelo muy corto, tenía anteojos de cristales muy gruesos y hablaba español con bastante fluidez. Nadie, en todo Santiago, recuerda exactamente su nombre. Mucho menos su apellido de soltera. Lo único seguro son sus iniciales. En una carta dirigida al jefe de Correos de La Banda, fechada el 9 de marzo del '61, firma M. M. G. de Ascher.

Sobre Sara Concepción Lequizamón, la ama de llaves, hay dos versiones. Todos coinciden en que era rubia, más bien baja y gordita. Al parecer había nacido en Corrientes, se había criado en Entre Ríos y era de madre alemana. Algunos dicen que tenía alrededor de 20 años. Otros que pasaba los 30. Los peones afirman que "la alemanita era muy linda". El doctor Olegario Hernández, actual magistrado de la cámara de la justicia del trabajo, ex asesor jurídico y amigo personal de los Ascher, la recuerda como "más bien fea, parecía tener dificultades para caminar y por momentos tuve la impresión que era una débil mental. Recuerdo, además, que tenía muy mala dentadura." (Detalle confirmado por el odontólogo Oscar Barrón, que la trató entre el '58 y el '59).

Y aquí terminan las coincidencias. Todo lo que sigue, según los testigos, muestra a dos personas opuestas: ¿Ascher o Mengele?

¿MEMORIA O LEYENDA?

José Domínguez mueve la cabeza como si no pudiera creer lo que tiene frente a los ojos. "Pensar que viví doce años junto a un asesino nazi. Parece mentira." Recuerda que cuando Ascher llegó hablaba español con dificultad. Y no sabía abso-

lutamente nada de agricultura. Los Domínguez, que eran nueve hermanos, le dieron las primeras nociones. Le prestaron también las primeras herramientas. No se sabe por qué pero Ascher jamás adquirió elementos técnicos por los cuales tuviese que firmar algún papel. (Según Domínguez comprar media docena de mulas era simple: bastaba con pagar por ellas. Comprar un tractor, en cambio, exigía papeles. Y Ascher eludía, sistemáticamente, todo tipo de papeleo). Según Domínguez lo primero que hizo el nuevo dueño de la San Fernando fue poner cerrojos en todas las puertas. "A las siete de la tarde se encerraba en la casa y no le abría a nadie, pasara lo que pasara. Como dormían cada uno en su cuarto construyó baños individuales. Pero lo que más nos llamó la atención a mi hermano Salvador y a mí, fueron las armas." ¿Cómo sabían los Domínguez un detalle tan íntimo? Porque tenían acceso a la casa normalmente. Todos los años Ascher desaparecía de la finca entre el 20 de agosto y el 10 de septiembre. Decía que viajaba a Uruguay. Nunca aclaró para qué. Durante esos días Salvador y José montaban guardia en el interior de la casa. Ascher les entregaba una escopeta con dos cartuchos a cada uno "para que cuidaran a las mujeres". María y Sara, a la vez, estaban muy inquietas. ¿A quién temían? Nunca lo dijeron. Cree que la esposa de Ascher se llamaba María Marta Guillermina Hill. (Notablemente, la esposa de Mengele se llama María Marta). El Liberal va más lejos aún y afirma que Domínguez dijo Will, que es su apellido de soltera. Recuerda haberle oído decir a Ascher que venía de Entre Ríos donde había sido rechazado como director de una planta envasadora de cerveza "porque mis títulos no servían." El día que le preguntó por la renguera afirmó que era una herida de guerra. Pero jamás hablaba del tema. Era evidente que lo eludía. El día que asistieron al casamiento de uno de los hermanos de José se sentaron en un rincón, apenas hablaron y se fueron. "Lo más notable de todo es que se negaron a dejarse

**"Un día me regaló una perra preñada.
Volvió a buscarla a la tarde siguiente. La llevó a un
baldío y la mató de un tiro."**

(Noel Botvinik, farmacéutico.)

fotografiar." Entre el '47 y el '48 las visitas eran permanentes. Por lo general trataba de los técnicos alemanes que colaboraban en la construcción del dique Los Quiroga. Todos rubios y de porte erguido como Ascher. Tendrían alrededor de 35 años. Esta actividad social cesó abruptamente en el '49. Ese año, precisamente, llegó una pareja de jóvenes (tendrían 23 o 24 años). Era evidente que venían de Alemania. A la semana desaparecieron tan misteriosamente como llegaron. Se dijo, en ese entonces, que eran los hijos de Ascher. Difícilmente pueda olvidarse José del día que le pidió a su vecino tres azadas prestadas para segar el algodón. "Al rato volvió a buscarlas y se las llevó a los gritos. Cuando fui a pedirle una explicación estaba sentado en su sillón como si nada hubiera pasado. La única explicación me la dio su mujer: 'Adolfo ya está otra vez con los nervios' ". Y tampoco olvidará el final de la relación: "Un día, creo que en diciembre de 1958, desaparecieron de golpe. Regalaron algunas cosas, malvendieron la finca y se los tragó la tierra. ¿Por qué?"

Juana Villaba de Domínguez, su cuñada, recuerda que Sara "cada vez que paseaba en su bicicleta llevaba un revólver en la cartera." La imagen más clara que tiene de Ascher es "cuando pasaba por el portón de mi finca a caballo. Montaba erguido, como un soldado." El otro recuerdo se lo debe a su padre. Una tarde el dueño de la San Fernando lo amenazó con un revólver al verlo pasar cerca de su finca. Muy distintos son los recuerdos que guarda de María. El día que se despidió le regaló un collar de perlas que alguno de sus seis hijos deshizo. También una carretilla y un zapín. Además recibió un par de cartas, una foto de ella y una encomienda con ropa, cigarrillos y plata. (El dinero se extravió en el Correo.) En una de esas cartas le comunica, precisamente, que Adolfo Gualterio Ascher había muerto. Ella (como su cuñado) no creen esta versión. Porque para ambos Ascher y Mengele son una misma persona.

¿Lo son? Rafael y Faustino



José Domínguez: "Su vecino durante doce años. No puedo equivocarme. El doctor Ascher es el criminal de guerra Josef Mengele".

Carabajal así lo creen. Los dos fueron peones en la finca de la calle 25 de Mayo. Rafa tiene 68 años y Faustino 61. Los dos tienen la tez oscura y la mirada turbia. El primero trabajó nueve años. El otro casi cinco. Los dos recuerdan el ritual del 12 de octubre: "Ese día el patrón nos hacía bajar del atilío una caja de madera cerrada con tres candados. Sacaba un uniforme del ejército alemán, y lo ponía en el piso. Después se echaba al lado. Cuando llegaba el mediodía uno de nosotros tenía que agarrar una escopeta, llegar corriendo y caer sobre el uniforme. El decía qué recordaba así el día y la hora en que había sido herido." También recuerda Faustino algunas costumbres de su patrón. A las 11 de la mañana, por ejemplo, subía al mirador de su casa y con un largavistas miraba durante una hora. Lo mismo hacía al atardecer. ¿A quién esperaba? Jamás estaba en la casa si alguien lo buscaba. Eso sí: él nunca lo vio armado. Lo que era evidente es que no le gustaba estar al descubierto. Sólo salía al parque cuando era indispensable. Según Faustino los tres habitantes de la casa dormían en la misma habitación y cree que la pareja de jóvenes llegó a la finca en el '52. Los recuerda como de 19 años y que él se llamaba Klaus. Ella vivió encerrada y él no hablaba una sola palabra de español. Rafael, en cambio, no duda que su ex pa-

trón iba siempre armado. "Usaba un revólver al cinto. Todo el tiempo. Me acuerdo que la empuñadura era blanca." También recuerda que recibía correspondencia de Alemania. (En el Correo de La Banda había una casilla a su nombre). A diferencia de Domínguez, que sostiene que Ascher "sólo comía comida alemana", Rafael Carabajal afirma "que comía de todo. Incluso, a veces, la comida nuestra".

Tampoco dudan que Ascher y Mengele son una misma persona los comerciantes Juan Julio Fernández y su mujer, Otelia Rabellino que lo surtían de fideos, yerba y azúcar en su local de la calle España. Ni el jubilado ferroviario Raúl Jorge Beltrán (60), que cuenta una anécdota desconcertante. En cierta oportunidad Ascher (al que conoció casualmente en la farmacia Noel) le regaló un cachorro de raza. Al día siguiente lo fue a buscar, le exigió que se lo devolviera y delante suyo le administró una cápsula. Un instante después el cachorro moría en medio de espasmos. "Le dije de todo. Y no sólo eso. Casi me voy a las manos". Luis Bernardo Aguirre (71) lo trató en 1952, el día que Ascher decidió pintar su finca. Si bien el trabajo no se concretó tuvo acceso a la casa. Allí encontró una bandera alemana y la foto de alguien vestido de soldado. En la conversación que sostuvieron lo que más le llamó la atención fue que As-

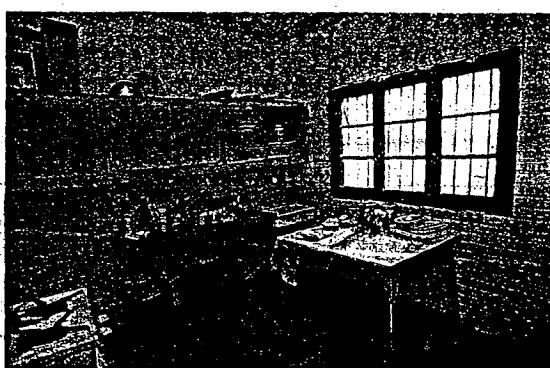
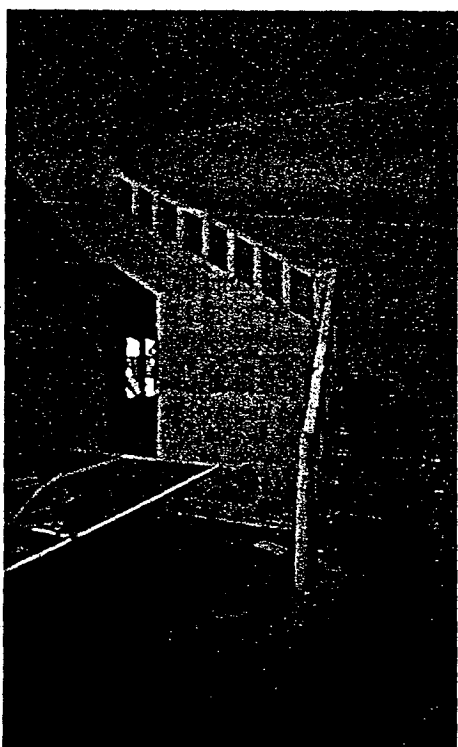
cher, sin ningún motivo aparente, le dijo: "Yo soy amigo del general Perón". También recuerda lo peligroso que era acercarse a la finca sin ser invitado. "Hasta Sara, la más joven, era capaz de empuñar un arma contra los intrusos".

LA OTRA CARA DEL ESPEJO

¿Pueden equivocarse la veintena de testigos que con distintas palabras contaron la misma historia? La lógica más elemental dice que no. Sin embargo, el testimonio del Ingeniero Agrónomo Pedro Marcos Guillén parece demostrar que sí. A los 65 años recuerda perfectamente a Adolfo Gualterio Ascher. El era director de la Estación Experimental Algodonera. Ascher, el mejor productor de algodón de la zona. Recuerda sus labios finos, los dientes manchados con nicotina y la resaca de tabaco rubio que a veces le quedaba en los labios. Guillén evoca a un hombre cortés, amante de la música clásica (especialmente Wagner), buen jugador de ajedrez, que tenía una sonrisa nerviosa y montaba un alazán como muy pocos podían hacerlo. No está seguro en que ciudad nació pero recuerda que Ascher había nacido frente a un río. (¿El Rhin tal vez?) En cambio, está seguro que era experto en deportes náuticos. Incluso, que tenía un yate. La ciudad pudo ser Berlín o Hamburgo. Estimó profundamente a este hombre detallista hasta la obsesión, de risa fácil, que había sido un alto empleado de la fábrica Schering, en Alemania y que según su propia confesión un día se había ido "porque en mi país ya no se podía vivir tranquilo". Confesión que le hace pensar que Ascher era judío-alemán. También recuerda a su mujer, sobre la que aporta dos datos inéditos: le faltaba un riñón y que tenía disminuida la visión de un ojo. (Al parecer era un defecto de nacimiento). Está casi seguro que él se fue primero y las mujeres después. Lo cierto es que recibió, desde Montevideo, cuatro cartas. Dos las conserva y dos se perdieron. En una de ellas Walter (así lla-



maba su mujer a Ascher) lo invitaba a su casa uruguaya. (Como se mudaron da dos direcciones: una, Cámara 1628. La otra, Bolivia 1548). Entre fines del '60 y principios del '61 llega la última carta: María le anuncia que Ascher había muerto. Jamás volvió a saber de ellos. Para Guillén "Si Ascher es Mengele yo soy Hitler". ¿Murió realmente? ¿O cómo el cadáver del cementerio de Embú, en Brasil, es una pregunta sin respuesta? Difícil de admitir para los que lo reconocieron como Joseph Mengele. Sin embargo, el doctor Olegario Hernández —quién al ver las fotos de Mengele reconoció el increíble parecido de éste con Ascher— aporta un dato que hace creíble la versión de su muerte. Como amigo de la familia (a pesar de que no simpatizaba con María) se encontró con ella en la confitería del viejo Hotel San Martín. Los Ascher se iban del país. Entre lágrimas la mujer le confesó que Walter estaba seriamente enfermo. Las lipotimias se estaban sucediendo de manera alarmante. Se quejó, también, y muy amargamente, de los comentarios de la gente. El que más la había herido era la versión de que su marido era el amante de Sara. Hernández recuerda, además, una frase muy significativa de Ascher, pronunciada después de 1955: "Creo que llegó la hora de irme. Sin Perón este país está condenado a sufrir grandes convulsiones sociales". No recuerda haber visto ningún libro en la casa. Sí, en cambio, varios diarios y publicaciones peronistas. También registra "su nariz, levemente aguilena" y el hecho de que recibía una cantidad de dólares desde Alemania. Todo indica que era su jubilación de la empresa Schering. Descarta por falsa la versión de que la San Fernando estaba custodiada por perros bravos y hombres armados como sostienen la mayoría de los vecinos. "Los famosos perros eran en realidad 7 u 8 terriers escoceses de color negro. Que eran muy ladradores. Pero nada más. Para no hablar de la cantidad de gatos



¿LA CASA DE MENGELE?

Adolfo Gualterio Ascher (el supuesto Mengele) la compró en 1946. Allí vivió con su mujer y una ama de llaves durante doce años. Está en la calle 25 de Mayo prolongación. Uno de los lugares más aislados de la ciudad. Desde el mirador se puede divisar cualquier persona o vehículo que se acerque. Según los peones era custodiada por hombres armados y perros bravos. La justicia busca un sótano (aparentemente oculto) que revelaría la personalidad del hombre que la habitó.

"Caminaba erguido como un soldado y tenía una mirada que helaba la sangre. Jamás pedía nada: lo ordenaba."

(José Domínguez, un vecino).

HABLA EL JUEZ QUE INVESTIGA A MENGELE

Qué lo impulsó a abrir un expediente sobre el caso Ascher-Mengele?

—La información periodística. Como juez del crimen no puedo ignorar la posibilidad de que un criminal de guerra haya vivido en la ciudad. Que esa información resulte cierta o no, es otro tema. Lo dirá, por supuesto, la investigación judicial.

—¿En qué etapa se encuentra, en este momento, esa investigación?

—Digamos que recién empieza. Pero estamos adelantando. El miércoles 10 realicé, junto a mis colaboradores, una investigación ocular de la finca donde vivió Ascher. El objetivo fue tomar fotos del lugar y comprobar la veracidad de un dato que puede resultar fundamental en la investigación: la existencia o no de un sótano. En ese lugar, según testigos que ya he citado, ocurrían cosas extrañas. Algunos piensan que experimentos con animales. Como es obvio, la comprobación de estos hechos le daría a la investigación un giro definitivo. En

Auswichtz, Mengele experimentaba con seres humanos.

—¿Cuál fue el resultado de la inspección?

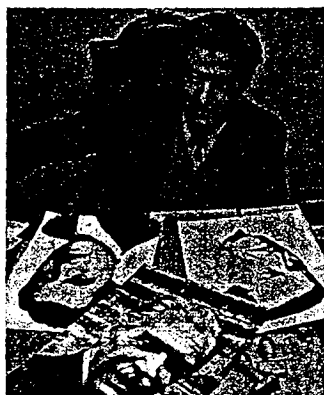
—No encontramos el sótano. Pero eso no significa que no exista. Ascher se fue hace más de quince años. Hubo otros moradores hasta su actual propietario, la empresa FACA. Alguien pudo anularlo. Es más, tal vez lo hizo el mismo Ascher antes de irse. Si tenía algo que ocultar es lo primero que debió hacer. Si lo considero necesario ordenaré hacer excavaciones.

—¿Cuántos testigos se presentaron hasta el momento?

—Diez o doce. Y, lamentablemente algunos van a tener que volver a declarar porque no hubo el tiempo necesario para indagar a fondo. De todas maneras pienso que recién cerraré la parte testimonial cuando declaren unos cien testigos. El expediente, por lo que veo hasta el momento, puede llegar a tener más de 400 fojas.

—¿Qué tiempo calcula que le llevará la investigación?

—Diría que un año. Aunque



Juez Andrés Miotti: "La investigación llevará un año".

voy a hacer todo lo posible para acortar el plazo. Lo ideal, aunque poco probable, sería seis meses.

—¿La investigación judicial se basará únicamente en los relatos testimoniales de las personas que conocieron a Ascher?

—No. Esa es una de las partes. Como en la Cooperativa Algodonera y en la escritura de compra de la finca está la firma del sospechoso, ordenaré un peritaje caligráfico comparando

su letra con la de Mengele, que en este momento está en manos de la justicia alemana, israelí o brasileña. Además está el peritaje facial, es decir, la comparación de los rasgos. Y si las conseguimos, la comparación de las huellas dactilares. Aún quedan en La Banda objetos que dejó el día que desapareció casi misteriosamente. Hay, por ejemplo, un sillón, una biblioteca, algunas prendas, una carretilla, un zapén, un chifonier y se habla de la existencia de dos armas que habría regalado a vecinos del lugar. Veremos qué puede hacer el laboratorio policial con ese material.

—¿Los peritajes se realizarán en Santiago del Estero?

—No. Pediré ayuda a la policía de Buenos Aires. El rigor de la investigación judicial así lo exige.

—Suponiendo que las pruebas sean positivas, ¿qué hará con el expediente?

—Enviarlo a Simon Wisenthal, el cazador de nazis. En este caso tan especial él representa a la justicia. La justicia final.

que tenían". También niega que la finca fuera un lugar peligroso para los visitantes. "Era un lugar tan abierto, tan poco cuidado, que la gente lo usaba de paso. Estimé al hombre profundamente. Ojalá que no sea un criminal de guerra". ¿Cuántos hombres puede ser un hombre? Pregunta imposible de contestar. Al menos en este caso. Porque un hombre muy distinto es para el farmacéutico Noel Botvinik y su mujer Sofía Westler. Un día llegó a la farmacia con una perra preñada. Fue un regalo que el farmacéutico agradeció profundamente. Le encantaban los perros. Sin embargo al día siguiente volvió a buscar la perra. "Me dijo que se la llevaba porque yo no podría cuidarla. No entendí su actitud pero no quise crear un problema con un cliente. Metió la perra en un taxi y se fue. Dos días después el taxista —que se

llamaba Parra— me dijo que llevó la perra a un baldío y la mató de un tiro. No supe qué pensar". La anécdota, tan desconcertante como la del testigo Roldán, ocurrió en 1956. El matrimonio no reconoce a Ascher en ninguna de las fotos.

¿Coincide esta imagen con la que tiene el doctor Carlos Meyers, el veterinario que cuidaba sus animales? Para nada. El recuerda que la familia lo llamaba, ante la menor dificultad que se presentaba. Y algo más. Meyers, que es de origen alemán y hablaba perfectamente el idioma sospecha (como Guillén) que Ascher era judío-alemán. Para afirmarlo se basa en la tonada. "Con Ascher yo hablaba en alemán. Sin embargo siempre sospeché que era de origen judío. Lo supe por la tonada. Un judío hablando alemán es como un cordobés o un correntino. Imposible no reco-

nocerlos". Por supuesto, no cree que su antiguo cliente sea Mengele. Hasta tal punto, que el 8 de julio envió una carta a El Liberal refutando la investigación.

En Buenos Aires, lejos de los chismes del pueblo, un hombre recuerda perfectamente a Adolfo Gualterio Ascher. Ese hombre es Guillermo Walter Klein, hermano de Hermann. Afirma que lo conoció a fines de la década del '30, que en el '46 Ascher tendría unos 50 años y que efectivamente había sido herido en la guerra. Pero en la Primera Guerra Mundial. Es el único que parece recordar el nombre de su mujer: María Mercedes Gowa de Ascher (nombre que coincide con las iniciales de la carta: M. M.G. de Ascher).

¿Cuál es la verdad? ¿Quién tiene razón? ¿Es posible que Ascher durante sus desapari-

ciones de La Banda viajara a Buenos Aires y ocupara la casa de la calle Virrey Vértiz 970, donde hoy sabemos que vivió Mengele? ¿Es posible que Mengele estuviera refiriéndose a la finca de Santiago del Estero cuando decía que tenía "un aserradero en el Norte"? O es, como algunos suponen, "una historia de pago chico"? Una de las tantas historias que forman, a la larga, la historia de un pueblo. ¿Memoria o leyenda? La respuesta, si alguna vez llega, está en manos del juez Miotti. El expediente 2085 acaba de abrirse. ¿Se cerrará alguna vez?

LUIS PAZOS

INVESTIGACION:

EDGARDO LÓPEZ HEREDIA

FOTOS: JESUS MARTINEZ, GENTILEZA

DIARIO "EL LIBERAL" DE SANTIAGO DEL

ESTERO Y JOSÉ TANTESSIO

PRÓXIMO NÚMERO: TERCERA ENTREGA

Una afección cardiovascular lo afectaba desde hacía un tiempo. En abril de este año tuvieron que interarlo de urgencia en una clínica santafesina. Pero el diputado nacional por Santa Fe, Rubén Cardozo, vicepresidente segundo del bloque justicialista, no quería parar la máquina. Estaba preocupado por el desenlace de la interna peronista después de Río Hondo, no por su salud. Recién a fines de mayo viajó a Houston, Estados Unidos. Los médicos del Medical Methodist Hospital, después del by-pass efectuado el 4 de junio, sólo dijeron, "fue exitoso". Pero este santafesino de 36 años, tres hijos, que a los 16 años fue elegido delegado en el gremio mecá-

...Y PUNTO

nico, no es de los que gustan del descanso. Apenas retornó a la Argentina, comenzó a trabajar en su despacho. La primera crisis —después de la operación— fue el jueves 25 de julio en una polémica, accidentada, agresiva y llena de insultos sesión de la Cámara baja.

Allí se trataba el conflicto de la Ford. Antes de fundamentar una serie de proyectos de su autoría, Cardozo comenzó a sentirse mal. José Luis Manzano, presidente de la bancada justicialista y médico, se acercó a tomarle el pulso. Todos notaron que el tono de voz de

Cardozo disminuía. Se puso pálido y cuando Manzano estaba pidiendo un cuarto intermedio, Cardozo se desmayó inconsciente, lo trasladaron a la enfermería de la Cámara y de allí a la Unidad Coronaria del Hospital Italiano. Mejoró y viajó a Rosario. Este lunes 29 en pleno vuelo hacia Buenos Aires sufrió un nuevo desmayo. Lo sacaron en camilla desde Aeroparque hacia el hospital. Ya está en su domicilio y aseguró que se tomará, por lo menos, una semana de descanso. Puede ser. Pero hasta ahora todo indica que la pasión política del diputado Rubén Cardozo puede más que las recomendaciones médicas que le aconsejaron como máximo seis horas de trabajo por día.

CORAZON DE DIPUTADO



Jueves 25. El diputado Rubén Cardozo es sacado en camilla del Congreso. Su afección coronaria volvió el lunes 29 en vuelo desde Rosario.

FOTO: HIGINIO GONZALEZ

**INVESTIGACION
Y FOTOS
EXCLUSIVAS**

Año 1954. Josef Mengele en el frente de su casa en la calle Sarmiento (Vicente López, provincia de Buenos Aires). Llegó a la Argentina en 1949. Aquí vivió durante diez años. Era uno de los hombres más buscados del mundo.

Planeta
Mengele
Tiempo



actor tiene que tocar físicamente a otro necesita una acomodación. Si yo ahora me sentara en tus rodillas y te diera un beso, seguramente los dos sentiríamos algo. Bueno, con Gerardo tengo confianza. Y eso no pasa. Es terreno ganado.

—Lo que no entiendo es por qué un programa hecho con semejante costo de producción, donde se han cuidado hasta los mínimos detalles, no tenga un lugar en la televisión, en un momento como éste, donde hay un auge del teleteatro. ¿Usted nunca se preguntó, por ejemplo, por qué le va tan bien a Amaldo André?

—No lo sé. Si tuviera la respuesta yo también tendría veinte

puntos de rating y no los tengo. No sé. Tal vez yo no le gustaba a la gente en esa propuesta. A lo mejor la gente tiene ganas de ver a Amaldo André y me parece bien. Es una alternativa válida. Pero pienso que lo que me pasó a mí son los avatares de los que se animan a seguir por un camino con una propuesta ideológica determinada. El que no tiene propuestas tiene menos riesgo.

—¿Y todo esto no lastima su vanidad?

—Digamos que mi vanidad hubiera preferido que la telenovela anduviera bien. Pero, ¿sabés qué lastima más que mi vanidad? ¿No? ... Bueno, mi narcisismo. Porque yo trabajo

para que me vean. El exhibicionismo es el motor esencial de nuestro trabajo. Desde ese punto de vista sí. Mi narcisismo está herido. Pero mi vanidad no.

—¿Y qué diferencia hay?

—Que si esto le hubiera pasado a fulanito, nadie hubiera dicho nada. Pero si los demás suponen que Leonor Benedetto tiene que ser una fuente inagotable de éxitos y de rating, bueno, es problema de ellos.

Y por qué cree que está siempre ahí, en la cresta de la ola?

—No tengo ni la menor idea.

—Sí que la tiene.

—Bueno porque soy una

mujer que siempre dijo lo que piensa. Hoy mismo en la productora me dijeron que no era conveniente hablar de estas cosas. "Sos una loca. Si decís cosas duras nos van a matar".

—¿Y por qué lo hizo?

(Se ríe): —Y... porque no me gusta que me den órdenes.

—¿Entonces estamos en que Leonor Benedetto hace siempre lo que le viene en ganas?

—Pamplinas. Nada de eso. Si hubiera hecho lo que me viene en ganas ahora no estaría sola. Nada de eso. Sólo vivo como puedo. Eso sí, libre de prejuicios y de convencionalismos. Lo que pasa es que esta profesión termina por endurecerla a una. Te forma como callos. Pasan cosas a tu lado y no te das cuenta.

—Está sola, sacaron del aire Bárbara Narváez y por primera vez en su vida no tiene rating. Volvemos al principio... ¿Qué pasa entonces?

—Pasa que hice un buen programa que no tuvo suerte. Pasa que por eso puedo salir a la calle con la cabeza alta. Y... mirá, pasa que me lo banco como una reina.

RUBEN GIORDANO

FOTOS: EDUARDO GIMENEZ

LO QUE DICE CANAL 13

Carlos Montero, el flamante gerente general de Canal 13, habló con GENTE del tema. Esto fue lo que dijo: "Asumí hace apenas noventa y seis horas. El que tomó la medida fue el director del canal, el señor Carlos Negrí. En cuanto a que lo reemplazamos por una serie extranjera, en desmedro de una telenovela hecha por argentinos, le aclaro que esta decisión sólo correrá por treinta días. Con Bárbara Narváez no hicimos más que cumplir con lo que establecía

el contrato que firmamos con Horacio Casares Producciones. En él se acordó que en un tiempo determinado el programa tenía que tener un mínimo de diez puntos de rating. Hace un mes, exactamente el 12 de junio, los directivos del canal mantuvieron una reunión con la gente de Casares y le dieron un plazo de treinta días para que el teleteatro elevara su rating. Como eso no ocurrió, se decidió levantarlo. Y para mí ése es un hecho definitivo.

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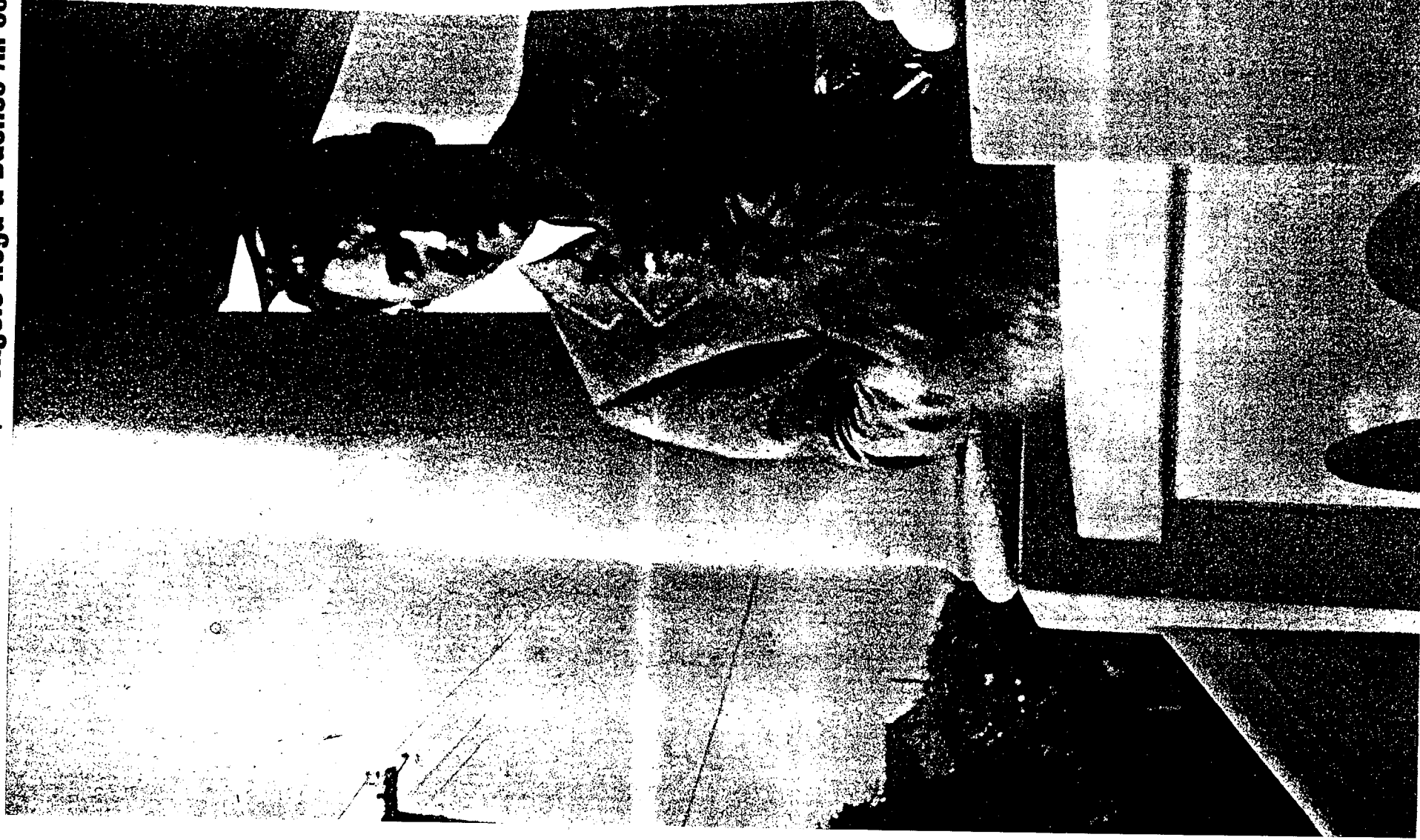


(Primera Parte)

MENGELE EN LA ARGENTINA

A pocos días de la noticia que conmovió al mundo (la revelación de la muerte de Josef Mengele, en 1979), GENTE inicia una investigación histórica: los años que el exterminador de Auschwitz vivió en la Argentina. Cómo llegó a Buenos Aires, sus refugios, sus contactos, sus seudónimos, todos los testimonios hoy.

En Junio de 1949, Mengele llega a Buenos Aires en barco desde Génova



AÑO 1950, MENGELE EN SU CASA

Arenales 2460, Florida
Sonríele y con uno de los
galos de ahora de Herla
Malbran —dueña de casa—
en brazos, Josef Mengele posa
en el porche de la propiedad
donde alquiló una habitación
desde 1950 hasta julio de
1952. Usaba el seudónimo de
Helmuth Greder. Esbozó
montando una pequeña
fábrica de cestería en
madera, y le dijo a dona Herla

Durante 10 años (hasta su huida al Paraguay) vivió en Vicente López.

EXCLUSIVITE
FIGARO
MAGAZINE

EN ARGENTINE
MENGELE
VIVAIT
COMME
UN
MILLIARDAIRE

Après la mort de
son père, le baron
von Mengele, le
comte de Herta, a
hérité de son nom.
Il a également hérité
de son argent. Mais
il n'a hérité que
d'une partie de son
patrimoine. Le reste
a été donné à son
frère, le comte de
Herta, qui a hérité
de son nom et de
son argent.

**LA CASA DONDE VIVIO
MENGELE, HOY.**

*Sigue igual, con el mismo
porche y las columnas donde
Mengele se fotografio. Herta y
Teodoro Malbran murieron.
Solo queda Nani Malbran,
nuera de Herta, que recuerda
ese individuo de pocas
palabras que vivio dos años
alli. 'Habia comentado que su
padre le mando las
maquinarias para montar la
fabrica desde Alemania', dijo
Nani Malbran a GENTE.*

Los hombres, al igual que los perros, tienen su pedigrí. Por lo tanto sus características raciales se pueden mejorar mediante la cruce". Palabras del joven médico, doctor en antropología, agregado en la Universidad de Frankfurt y asistente de "La higiene de las razas" de la misma ciudad. A los 27 años —en 1938—, ingresó en la SS y sirvió en el Tirol, en el '40 pasó a la división de la SS "Wiking" de Himmler y participó de la ofensiva contra el frente ruso hasta 1943. Una herida, la condecoración "Cruz de Hierro", el grado de capitán y un nuevo destino: Auschwitz, campo de concentración y exterminio. Y entonces las palabras, las hipótesis, pasaron a la práctica. Tenía en sus manos el caudal humano necesario para su terrible investigación sobre la herencia.

Con el fin de la guerra, con la derrota del nazismo, comenzó la desbandada de los artífices del horror. Helmut Gregor, Herman Grobert, Fritz Fischer, Gregor Gregory, José Aspiazu, Karl Geuske, Ernst Alvez, Wolfgang Gerhard, fueron algunos de los seudónimos que usó Mengele en su fuga, desde 1945 hasta su muerte en 1979. Esos nombres casi seguro quedarán en el olvido y en las crónicas periodísticas. Todos lo recuerdan como *El ángel de la muerte*. Esta investigación exclusiva es una síntesis de la vida de Josef Mengele en la Argentina: casi 11 años en la historia del coleccionador de ojos azules.

Odessa significa *Organisation der SS Angehörigen* (Organización de los miembros de las SS). Una estructura, un compromiso, un pacto de sangre para enfrentar a la derrota, una urdimbre de contactos y dinero a nivel mundial, un manto que transforma en invisibles a los camaradas de armas perseguidos. Odessa da la señal a Mengele. Después de la guerra había pasado cuatro años camuflado en una granja cerca de su pueblo natal. Se acerca el peligro, hay que huir de Europa. El domingo de Pascuas de



Arenales 2460. GENTE con Nani de Malbrán. "Recuerdo que mis suegros le dieron hospedaje a un tal Helmut Gregor. Por las fotos reconozco que fue Mengele".

1949, Josef Mengele llega al paso Brenner, en Austria. Hace noche en el albergue *Kerschbaum*, a 400 metros de la frontera italiana. No tiene documentos, pero no es un inconveniente: hay suficientes pasadores que hacen su fortuna con el tránsito ilícito en la frontera. Por 1.000 *shillings* —menos que por un ternero de contrabando— los criminales nazis son llevados al otro lado de la montaña: Italia. Destino: el puerto de Génova. Pero antes, Mengele tiene que contactarse nuevamente con Odessa. La cita es con *Nino* en el albergue *Cruz de Oro*, y la palabra clave —llave para obtener dinero y nuevos documentos— es *Rose Marie*. Todo va sobre ruedas. Confía una foto a *Nino* y recibe a cambio una cédula de identidad. Aparece *Erwin* en escena con un buen paquete de dólares. (Según Rolf Mengele, hijo de Josef, *Erwin* es Hans Seldmeier, compañero de colegio de su padre. Rolf pudo hilvanar paso a paso la fuga de su padre a través de las cartas que le mandó, las conversaciones que mantuvo con él, y unas anotaciones que están en su poder y en donde Mengele contó la historia de su vida). Pero, ¿quién es *Murt*, esa figura enigmática, un hombre que aparece distante pero muy eficaz? Por 120.000 liras le reserva un pasaje en el *North Queen*, clase turista. Puerto

final: Argentina. Es el país donde *El ángel de la muerte* puede encontrar la paz. Es la orden de Odessa.

"Gracias a su cédula de identidad voy a conseguirle —dice Kurt— en el consulado suizo un pasaporte internacional de la Cruz Roja. Mañana arreglaremos las últimas formalidades en el consulado argentino".

Nuevo nombre: Helmut Gregor, certificado N° 100.501, extendido por la Cruz Roja Internacional. Pero un grano de arena comienza a colarse en el aceitado engranaje de Odessa.

El próximo paso es conseguir con urgencia la visa de salida italiana. Kurt hace un llamado. Cuando cuelga, está pálido. Se entera que el funcionario encargado de conseguir la visa salió de vacaciones. El engranaje está a punto de detenerse. "Deberá ir sólo —Kurt se lava las manos—. Prepara 20.000 liras para el funcionario de prefectura... Seguramente querrá más..." Josef Mengele se arriesga, no tiene alternativa, no puede volver atrás. El cerco en Europa se va cerrando y su paz está en la Argentina.

"Deme su permiso de permanencia", le exige el comisario de emigración. El "no" de Helmut Gregor suena débil. "¿De dónde viene?", insiste el comi-

sario. "Del sur del Tirol", contesta Gregor - Mengele. Lo encierran. El ángel parece una fiera. Su barco parte en tres días. Y otra vez la suerte, el azar (¿o la organización?), salvan a Mengele. Aparece el funcionario que se comprometió a entregar la visa. Todo queda en un malentendido y el *North Queen* sigue en puerto.

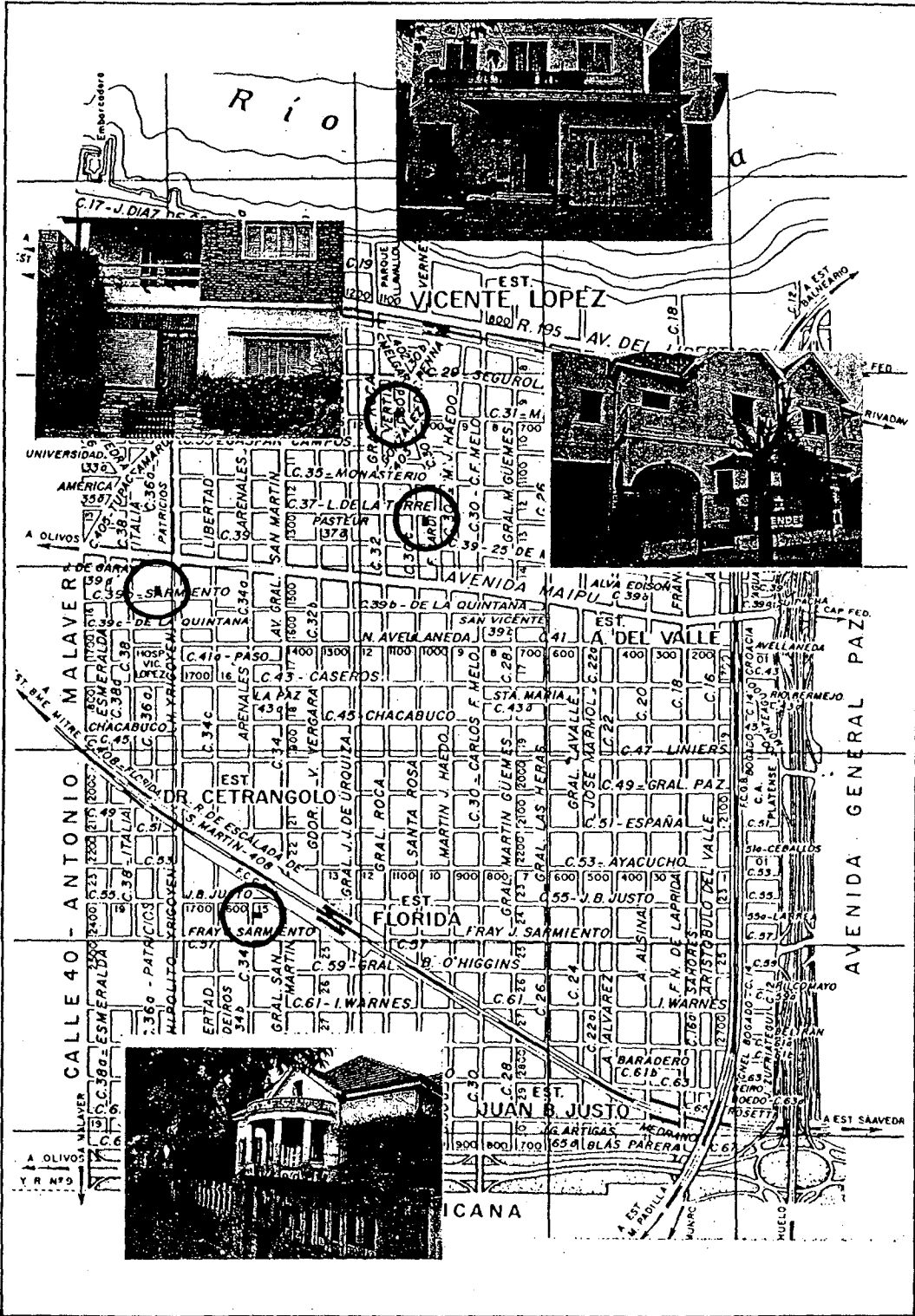
Según cuenta Rolf Mengele, el *North Queen* amarró en el puerto de Buenos Aires la mañana del 17 de setiembre de 1949. Entre los pasajeros estaba su padre. Pero en el archivo de Migraciones, GENTE comprobó que ese día ingresó un solo barco; el *Anna C*, procedente de Génova. En ese listado de pasajeros no figura Helmut Gregor, ni ninguno de los seudónimos usados por él. El *North Queen* no tocaba —por esos años— puerto en Buenos Aires. Pero sí el *North King*, que en 1949 arribó a puerto en abril, junio y agosto. Con bandera panameña, 5.024 toneladas y 104 tripulantes salió de Vigo el 16 de mayo de 1949 y llegó a Buenos Aires el 20 de junio. En Génova subió Helmut Gregor, que declaró tener 38 años, ser soltero, alemán, católico y mecánico. Su número de pasaporte: 100.501. También declaró tener buena salud y no poseer ningún defecto físico o mental. Dio una dirección de referencia: Sarandí 846, Buenos Aires. Entonces, el 20 de junio de 1949, Josef Mengele pisaba suelo argentino.

Una vez en Buenos Aires falla el primer contacto de Mengele. Rolf Nuckert no acude a la cita. No tiene plata argentina. Por un momento se desconcierta. Pero toma una decisión rápida: acepta la hospitalidad de dos italianos que conoció a bordo. Un cuarto compartido en el *Palermo*, un hotel de tercera para inmigrantes, donde el agua está al final de un corredor en palanganas oxidadas. En su primera salida pasea por el centro y va en busca del segundo contacto. Debe encontrar al Doctor Schott que tiene su oficina en la calle 25 de Mayo. Pasa frente a la Casa Rosada. Dos soldados montan guardia. Los observa con deleite y piensa: "La ropa

primer contacto— falta a la cita. Se hospedó en el Palermo, un hotel para inmigrantes."

que sirve mejor a los estados sigue siendo el uniforme militar. ¡Vergüenza tiene que sentir la nueva Alemania que quema sus uniformes por la culpa colectiva y los complejos de inferioridad!"

Schott es incapaz de encontrarle un trabajo de acuerdo a sus pretensiones. Trabaja en la tejeduría Armantex Ltda., como ingeniero, y le comenta a Mengele: "Usted, Gregor, podría trabajar allí como cardador de lana". Altivez y rechazo de Mengele ante la propuesta de su contacto. Busca otra conexión. Sabe que no puede dar pasos en falso. Se encuentra —no casualmente— con un carpintero que quería dejar su puesto. "No solamente —escribe Mengele en su diario—, tenía para ofrecerte su puesto a un sucesor sino que también me ofrece su lugar para dormir". Y del hotel para inmigrantes se va a Vicente López, al norte de la Capital. Durante los casi once años que Mengele vive en la Argentina sus domicilios están dentro de un radio de 5 cuadras a la redonda: 5 de Julio 1074 (hoy, Lisandro de la Torre), Sarmiento 1875, Arenales 2460 y Virrey Vértiz 970, cuatro lugares por donde pasó Josef Mengele. La casa de Otto y Bertha Pantz, en Sarmiento al 1800, habría sido el primer domicilio de Helmut Gregor en Vicente López. Este matrimonio alemán falleció hace más de 10 años y sus hijos no quieren hacer declaraciones a la prensa. Según comentarios de los vecinos, en los años '50, Bertha y Otto alquilaban una pieza que tenían en el fondo del chalet. Allí Mengele y otro personaje sólo conocido hasta ahora como el ingeniero M., compartían una pieza sin ventanas. Pero alguien habló demasiado. El ingeniero M., se entera que el nuevo pensionista es doctor en medicina. Esta indiscreción tendría diez años más tarde funestas consecuencias para el jefe médico de Auschwitz. Según la revista alemana "Bunte", después de unos días el ingeniero M., se va de la pensión. Mengele se alegra de tener la habitación para el sólo. Pero el ingeniero regresa



SUS CASAS, SIEMPRE CERCA

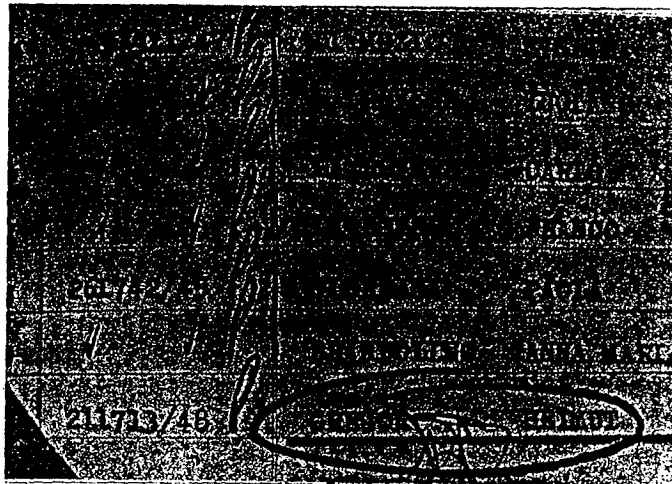
Mengele vivió en cuatro casas ubicadas dentro de un radio de cinco cuadras en Vicente López. A: Arenales 2460, allí alquiló una pieza. B: Sarmiento 1875, compartió una habitación con "el ingeniero M". C: Virrey Vértiz 970, aquí vivió hasta fines del '59. D: 5 de Julio 1074 (hoy, Lisandro de la Torre). Alquilaba una habitación para su esposa Martha y su hijastro Carlos Enrique.

"Recibía pocas visitas. Le gustaba salir a caminar con su mujer, Martha, y s

muy pronto con su pequeña hija en brazos. Está enferma, y él, desesperado. Presiona a Mengele para que revise a su hija. El médico - carpintero duda, sabe el peligro que corre si se difunde su verdadera profesión. Duda pero acepta: "Reconocí que la asistencia a los enfermos es el primero de los mandamientos hipocráticos", escribiría en su diario. El diagnóstico es rápido: escarlatina. La puso en el desván de la casa —una improvisada sala de aislamiento— y así la cuidaron hasta su recuperación con paños para bajar la fiebre, comida liviana, té de manzanilla y pastillas de sulfamida.

Desde el año '50 hasta julio del '52, Helmut Gregor se hospeda en Arenales 2460, en otra casa de familia. También aquí alquila una habitación, pero esta vez para el solo. Teodoro y Herta Malbrán —alemanes— aceptan el buen pago que ofrece este hombre de trato cortés, pero de pocas palabras. Los Malbrán fallecieron, hoy habita la casa la nuera: Nani de Malbrán. Mira la foto de Mengele y no duda: "Ese hombre vivió aquí durante más de dos años. Sólo venía a dormir. Era tranquilo, de buenos modales. Se había alojado bajo el nombre de Helmut Gregor. Mi suegra, en esa época, tenía problemas económicos y alquilaba algunos de los cuartos de la casa. Así como vino, un día se fue. Mejor dicho, tuvo que irse porque yo y mi novio, el hijo de Bertha, nos casábamos e íbamos a vivir en esta casa. Con el tiempo conocimos su foto a través de la prensa. Supimos quién era. Fue una desagradable sorpresa".

¿Y a qué se dedicaba Helmut Gregor por esos tiempos? "A nosotros nos decía —cuenta Nani de Malbrán— que estaba montando una pequeña fábrica de tornería en madera. En el '51 o en el '52, no recuerdo bien, le comenté a mi suegra que su padre le había mandado desde Alemania todas las maquinarias necesarias. Eso es todo lo que puedo contar de ese tal Helmut Gregor. ¡Ah! Otra cosa: por



ASI LLEGO

Con el nombre de Helmut Gregor, mecánico alemán de 38 años, Josef Mengele llegó al país a bordo del "North King" el 20 de junio de 1949.

periodos de tiempo no muy extensos dejaba de venir a dormir. Nunca daba explicaciones."

Durante los once años siguientes, amigos poderosos, generosos donantes, se esfuerzan por hacer prosperar al ex médico de Auschwitz. Su padre nunca dejó de escribirle pero la madre quemaba las cartas y sólo guardaba las estampillas para coleccionar. Rolf recuerda que su abuelo Karl había viajado una vez a la Argentina y que le hizo llegar después a Josef —por distintas vías— costosas maquinarias para trabajar la madera. También Rolf cuenta que la relación más preciada que su padre había hecho en la Argentina era un tal Sassen, criminal de guerra alemán a cuya cabeza le habían puesto precio en Bélgica. Sassen habría sido quien puso en contacto a Mengele con Rudel, el aviador más condecorado de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y conocido del entonces presidente Juan Domingo Perón. Mengele se siente seguro y crece económicamente. Compra un Borgward Isabella —uno de los automóviles más lujosos de la época— y obtiene sin dificultades una cédula de identidad. Según Bunte, recibe un pasaporte de la Bundesrepublik que le entrega el embajador de Alemania. Con este pasaporte se presenta ante los tribunales argentinos y entrega

una solicitud para cambiar su nombre por el de Josef Mengele. No encuentra obstáculos en su camino.

Pero la carpintería no era el hobby predilecto de Josef Mengele. La medicina, la experimentación química, le atraían más. En 1957 la firma Fadro Farm KGSA alquila a Orbis una propiedad ubicada en Drysdale al 3700, en Carapachay, zona norte del Gran Buenos Aires. Fadro Farm es una firma que se dedica a la elaboración de drogas antituberculosas. El contrato social del laboratorio está a nombre de dos personas: el doctor Ernesto Timmerman y el doctor Josef Mengele. Así, a cara descubierta y con su identidad, Mengele aparece en escena. Su nombre figura en los contratos durante seis meses hasta que inesperadamente desaparece.

Tres años después Fadro Farm compra las instalaciones y la firma continúa trabajando hasta 1972, aproximadamente, bajo la dirección del doctor Timmerman. Luego, durante tres años permaneció desocupada y en la actualidad en Drysdale al 3700 funciona un frigorífico. Un dato interesante: en las actas de la empresa hay una observación en la que se detalla que la familia Mengele de Günzburg habría aportado un millón de mar-

cos para que Josef sea copropietario.

Auto, empresa y nueva casa. En setiembre de 1957 llega un nuevo vecino a las barrancas de Vicente López, a cinco cuadras de la estación. Habita el chalet de Virrey Vértiz 970. No está solo. Una mujer —Martha, viuda de Karl, el hermano de Mengele— y su hijo, Carlos Enrique, llegan con él. Sus vecinos de la época afirman que era un individuo cortés pero que no otorgaba ninguna clase de confianza o amistad a los habitantes del barrio. Hacía una vida retraída y recibía pocas visitas: dos o tres matrimonios alemanes que lo visitaban en contadas oportunidades. Eso sí, le gustaba caminar. Mengele debía disfrutar esos paseos por Vicente López, sin problemas aparentes, como un vecino más. Lejos de Auschwitz, lejos de la muerte. Iba acompañado por Martha y una perra boxer a la que llamaban Bela. Para el barrio, los Mengele eran un matrimonio normal. No tenían discusiones, aunque el joven Carlos Enrique, de 13 años parecía temer al jefe de la familia. El matrimonio de Josef y Martha se habría consumado el 25 de julio de 1958 en Montevideo por designio de la familia en Günzburg que no quería ver el patrimonio heredado por la hermosa viuda en manos extrañas. La vida de los Mengele seguía carriles tranquilos. En el barrio se comentaba que él era doctor en medicina pero que no ejercía su profesión. Notaban que a veces se ausentaba de la Capital en viajes de negocio. "Tiene un aserradero en la zona norte del país", explicaban algunos. Parecían gozar de todas las comodidades: una casa bien amueblada y con pileta de natación. Además, gustaban de la buena mesa. Legumbres, carnes y diariamente compraban yogur y leche envasada. Carlos Enrique cursaba la primaria en el Colegio Alemán de Martínez, donde estaba inscripto con el apellido Mengele.

"Un hombre cortés y tranquilo", lo definieron sus vecinos. No así quienes pudieron vivir después de haber pasado por Auschwitz. Ernst Köhn (57),

perra boxer 'Bela'. Era cortés, pero no otorgaba confianza a los vecinos."

judío, era escribiente de Mengele. Vivió ocho meses al lado del ángel de la muerte. Kohn recuerda: "Mengele era un hombre nervioso. Por las mañanas llegaba con un humor terrible. Tres horas más tarde después de la primera selección, silbaba arias de ópera, estaba divertido".

Todo siguió normal hasta setiembre de 1959. Odessa dio el alerta. Otra red, menos numerosa pero eficaz tendía su sombra sobre la Argentina. Los Servicios Secretos Israelíes comenzaban a cosechar información. Para muchos nazis, el tiempo y la vida tranquila habían hecho flaquear las medidas de seguridad. Pequeños grupos de la Mossad rondaban por Buenos Aires. Tenían dos objetivos precisos: Eichmann y Mengele. En la primavera del '59, el vecino de Virrey Vértiz desapareció. En el barrio se comentó con extrañeza esa urgente mudanza. "Parece que abandonaron el país porque van a Alemania a separarse", dijeron algunos. La mayoría no creyó esa versión. A Mengele le habían avisado que estaba por caer en la trampa de los israelíes. Eichmann no pudo escapar. En mayo de 1960 fue capturado en Don Torcuato y en un avión de El-Al (la línea oficial israelí) fletado bajo la apariencia de un vuelo que transportaba a una misión gubernamental de Israel. Pero Josef Mengele, el hombre más buscado de todos los tiempos, el médico que comandó el campo de concentración y exterminio de Auschwitz y que durante sus años de trabajo envió a las cámaras de gas a 2.100.000 personas, volaba una vez más. Paraguay, una posible estadía en Bariloche y después Brasíl, hasta su muerte en 1979. Así pudo escapar definitivamente a la justicia de los hombres.

ADRIAN VAN DER HORST

INVESTIGACION: HORACIO ALONSO

FOTOS: BUNTE, MARCELO FIGUERAS,

FABIAN MAURI Y GERARDO PREGO

La semana próxima: segunda y última entrega de Mengele en la Argentina.



MENGELE EN SU JARDIN

Virrey Vértiz 970. Aquí vivió desde 1957 hasta que "desapareció abruptamente en setiembre del '59". Era una casa bien amueblada y con pileta de natación en las barrancas de Vicente López a 4 cuadras de la estación. Odessa le avisó que los servicios israelíes lo estaban por cercar. Inició entonces una nueva fuga que lo llevó a Paraguay, una posible vuelta a Bariloche y a Brasil hasta su muerte ocurrida en 1979.

Ronald Reagan era el mito. El hombre mágico que solucionaba los problemas más difíciles de un mundo convulsionado. Era un hombre de suerte que había sobrevivido a un intento de asesinato. Que con sus 74 años seguía teniendo la vitalidad de siempre, las fuerzas, las ganas. Un hombre en quien los norteamericanos se veían reflejados. Pero vino la operación y la frase de sus médicos: "Al presidente se le extirpó un tumor maligno". El mito se transformaba en hombre. Al igual que miles de norteamericanos el presidente no era inmortal. La

...Y PUNTO

magia acá no podía funcionar. Durante ocho días todos los medios de comunicación hablaron de la enfermedad de Reagan. Exactamente hasta el sábado 20, cuando con su mano en alto —como diciendo "todo está okey"— volvió a la Casa Blanca a seguir trabajando, a saludar

desde el balcón Truman con las mismas fuerzas y ganas que durante su campaña electoral. Fue ese día cuando el pueblo norteamericano volvió a "votar" por él. Creyeron en esa mano en alto y en el optimismo que transmitía. Volvieron a creerle cuando les aconsejó:

"compatriotas háganse un chequeo médico si creen tener algún problema." Y una vez más cuando lo vieron abrazar a Nancy Reagan diciéndole: *"Gracias socia por tu ayuda"*. Porque Ronald Reagan no les decía —no les dijo— que había vencido la enfermedad. Les enseñó, como dijo la revista *Neeweek*, *"que el cáncer se puede domesticar"*, Reagan siguió siendo el mito. Pero por sobre todo se convirtió en el hombre, que logró "domesticar" una enfermedad que es sinónimo de muerte. Y esta vez ni la magia ni el mito estuvieron a su lado.

EL HOMBRE Y EL MITO

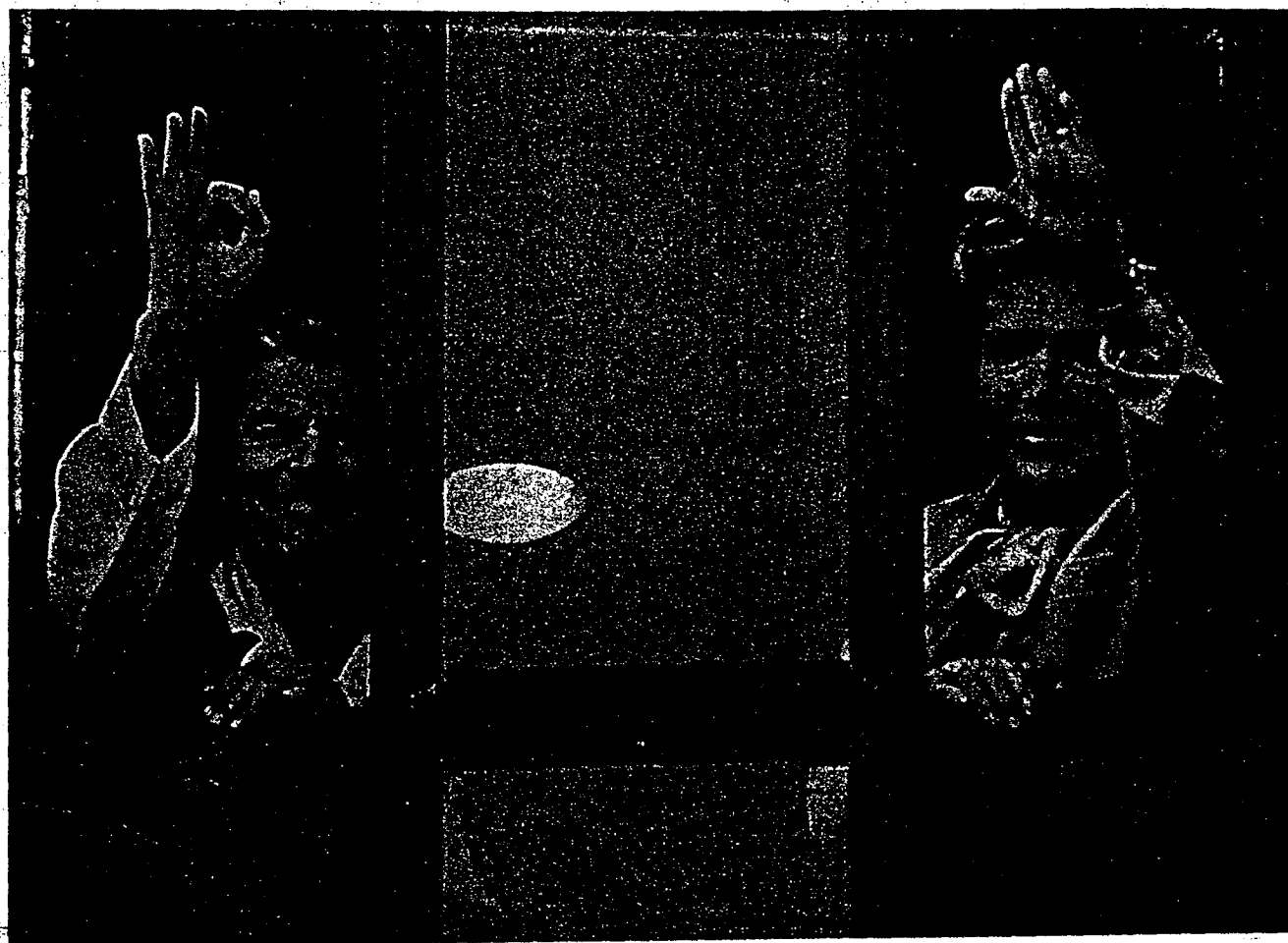


FOTO: GAMMA



Jewish women and children wait for instructions at the Auschwitz station: Fates were sealed with a flick of the doctor's thumb

WORLD AFFAIRS

Hunting the 'Angel of Death'

Forty years after the Holocaust, the search for Josef Mengele takes on new life.

The applicant walked into a police station in Asunción, Paraguay, on Oct. 24, 1959. He presented an Argentine identity card, dated 1956. He formally declared that he had opened an account at the Banco del Paraguay and had deposited the required 5,000 guaranis (\$41.50). He presented two Paraguayan sponsors; he described himself as a businessman and said he lived in a neighborhood of Asunción called Fernando de la Mora. The presiding police official painstakingly wrote down in longhand a description of the man who stood before him: dark skin, cleanshaven, vertical forehead, light brown eyes, "medium" mouth, straight nose, "normal" eyebrows, prominent chin. Then a five-year residency permit was issued—in the name of José Mengele.

The police document has since vanished from government files. But in Asunción recently, NEWSWEEK'S Theodore Stanger got a look at a photostat of what was purported to be the original paperwork Josef Mengele completed before applying for Paraguayan citizenship 25 years ago. The source who possessed the photostat refused to say where it had come from or to allow it to be photographed. Just such ephemera—shadowy meetings, mysterious documents, unconfirmed sightings—have all been part of the 40-year search for the fugitive "Angel

of Death," the Nazi doctor who sent hundreds of thousands of victims to the gas chambers at Auschwitz and performed grotesque medical "experiments" on thousands of others. In 1979, under mounting pressure from abroad, Paraguay stripped Mengele of his citizenship. Earlier this year, President Alfredo Stroessner, who once employed Mengele as his physician, ordered a new public-relations campaign disavowing any knowledge of the war criminal's whereabouts. But Nazi hunters have reason to believe that Mengele is still alive, at the age of 74, and most of them are persuaded that he is hiding out somewhere in Paraguay.

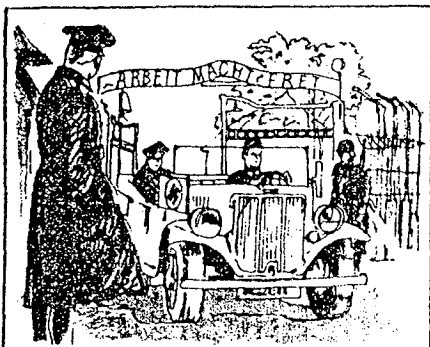
Four decades after the Holocaust the

search for Josef Mengele is taking on new life. Just last week Israel offered a \$1 million reward for his capture and formally asked Interpol, the international police agency, to help track him down. In Frankfurt, investigators from West Germany, the United States and Israel met to pool their information and to plan a common strategy for capturing Mengele. This week, one of the world's best-known nongovernmental Nazi hunters, Beate Klarsfeld of Paris, will travel to Paraguay with a new kind of wanted poster: a brief film about Mengele that she has been told she can show on local television. "Mengele is in Paraguay under the personal protection of President Stroessner," charges Klarsfeld's husband, Serge, a French lawyer. Now public and private pressure may at last force Mengele out into the cold again.

Hit List: He has proved to be the most elusive of the top Nazi fugitives, crisscrossing two hemispheres, always at least one step ahead of his pursuers. In 1947 he apparently slipped through the hands of U.S. occupation forces in Germany. For years he lived in or near his hometown of Günzburg, West Germany, without detection. The Mossad, Israel's fabled secret service, counts Mengele as one of its more conspicuous failures. The Israeli agents who kidnapped Adolf Eichmann from Argentina in

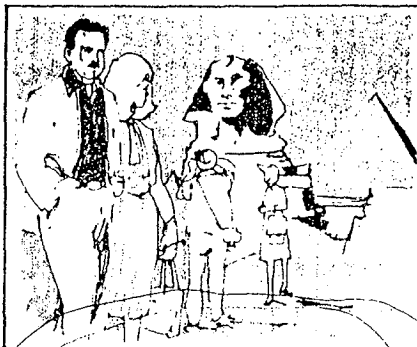


In 1938 and 1959: The most elusive Nazi



TRAIL OF A MASS MURDERER

1944 - Mengele leaves Auschwitz with false papers, allegedly obtained for him by his Jewish mistress, whom he saved from the gas chamber.
1947 - Arrested by U.S. Army, then is released or escapes. Hides out in Germany.
1948-49 - Resides briefly in hometown of Günzburg, then flees through Italy to Argentina with Red Cross passport in the name of Helmut Gregor. Under protection of dictator Juan Perón, he sets up medical practice without work permit.
1951 - Enters Paraguay and lives part-time in Asunción.
1954 - Obtains German divorce from his first wife.



1956 - Resettles in Argentina, where he acquires Argentine passport in name of José Mengele.
1958 - Marries his brother's widow in Uruguay.
1959 - Reportedly attends his father's funeral in Günzburg, then returns to Argentina. West German prosecutor in Freiburg issues first arrest warrant; Mengele, fearing extradition, flees to Paraguay, where he obtains Paraguayan citizenship a month later.
1960 - Israeli agents kidnap Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires and learn Mengele's address—only to find he fled to Argentina earlier.
1961 - Mengele and his wife allegedly spend time in Brazil, Switzerland, Egypt, and at a monastery on Greek island of Kythnos, where Greek police



arrive just days after he leaves. Mengele's wife and stepson leave him and return to Europe.
1962 - West Germany requests Mengele's extradition from Paraguay; Stroessner government is uncooperative.
1965 - Allegedly moves to his brother's farm in Iguazu area.
1979 - Under pressure from abroad, Paraguayan Supreme Court strips him of his citizenship. According to one report, he flies from Asunción to Miami.
1981-1985 - Checks on his whereabouts in Miami, West Germany, as well as Paraguay, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay, Australia and other countries, yield no results.

1960 were too slow to bag Mengele; later, when Prime Minister Menachem Begin put Mengele on a hit list, the Mossad couldn't get close enough to kill him, much less arrest him. The search for Mengele now is a race against time—one last effort to find the Nazi doctor before death by natural causes enables him to cheat the hangman forever.

"Mengele was a very handsome, smartly-dressed man in his 30s, with a boyish, sharp-featured face, who spoke the cultured German of an intellectual," Ella Lingens, an Auschwitz survivor, wrote after the war. "He stood, day in and day out, on the station ramp, sometimes whistling an opera, surveying the arriving prisoners and jabbing his thumb either to the right or to the left. The prisoners he sent to one side could proceed to the camp; the other column was marched to the gas chambers." Of the 4 million Jews, gypsies and other prisoners hauled into Auschwitz during World War II, only 405,000 were considered sufficiently fit for work to be registered as inmates.

Mengele took part in at least 74 of these mass selections between May 24, 1943, when he arrived in Auschwitz, and Christmas Eve of 1944, when he disappeared from the camp as the Red Army closed in. He personally sent perhaps 400,000 people to their deaths: the old, the infirm and nearly all of the children who passed before him. "Mengele was utterly convinced that the Jews had to be destroyed," another Auschwitz doctor, Hans Wilhelm Münch, told a German prosecutor after the war. "[But] he believed it was OK for those Jews who were capable of work to be kept alive for the time being."

How can anyone be sure that Mengele is still alive? Partly because of what hasn't happened yet: his family has not announced

his death. Mengele has a son named Rolf and a stepson named Karl-Heinz back in West Germany. The family's agricultural-machinery company, Karl Mengele & Sons, still operates in Günzburg. Family members refuse to talk about Josef Mengele. "When they can say the man is dead, the embarrassment will be finished," notes Simon Wiesenthal, the veteran Nazi hunter based in Vienna. "But they always say, 'No comment.'"

Keeping in Touch: Josef Mengele still has a lawyer in Frankfurt, named Fritz Steinacker, and recently the attorney went beyond "No comment." "Yes, I have represented Mengele," he told NEWSWEEK, "and I still do represent him." Hans-Eberhard Klein, the Frankfurt prosecutor who heads West Germany's search for Mengele, says he has "no evidence" to link the family and its company to the fugitive SS doctor. But there are rumors that Mengele keeps in touch with his roots. Wiesenthal charges that the Mengele clan "knew all the time where he was," and still does, "even today."

In Frankfurt last week, prosecutor Klein met with Israeli investigators and a team of Americans headed by Mark Richard, a U.S. deputy assistant attorney general. Afterward, the officials issued a statement promising that their governments would "work intensively together" to catch Mengele. The coordinated hunt began in earnest only a few months ago. On Feb. 6, William French Smith, who was attorney general then, assigned the task to the Justice Department's

Office of Special Investigations, which was set up five years ago to trace Nazi war criminals in the United States, but has not, until now, pursued a case overseas.

The reward offered by Israel last week brings to \$3.4 million the amount of money potentially available to whoever captures Mengele.* Surprisingly, Israel's pursuit of the Auschwitz doctor has been an on-and-



Wiesenthal in his Vienna office: Is the fugitive alive?

off affair. Isser Harel, the Mossad chief who captured Eichmann, pursued Mengele relentlessly, in hopes of subjecting him to a show trial like the one staged for his fellow Nazi. Later, however, the Israelis developed a strange-bedfellows relationship with Stroessner's right-wing, German-

*Anonymous contributors have offered \$1 million through the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. Other rewards have been put up by Wiesenthal himself (\$50,000), Beate Klarsfeld (\$25,000) and the West German government (\$320,000). An additional \$1 million has been offered by The Washington Times, the newspaper that is linked to the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

WORLD AFFAIRS

flavored dictatorship. Paraguay consistently supported Israel in the United Nations and hired Israelis to train its armed forces and maintain its airliners. The Mossad appeared to ease up on the Mengele case. In 1977 Begin tried to light a fire under the secret service. "The order was to 'get' Mengele, and not to drag him before a court," a former Begin aide told NEWSWEEK's Milan J. Kubic. "Had the Mossad found him, he would have been immediately executed."

Effort: But the Mossad didn't find Mengele. Now, in the emotional aftermath of Bitburg and the 40th anniversary of VE Day, the coalition government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres apparently believes that it has to do something. Ariel Sharon, the hawkish minister without portfolio, has charged that the government doesn't "know how to stand up to the goyim [gentiles]." Alluding to Bitburg, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim told the Knesset last week that Israel was obligated now "to make a greater effort to bring those mass murderers still alive to justice." Critics charged that the campaign consisted of more imagery than effort. Harel told Israeli radio that the reward should have been offered for "reliable information," not just for Mengele's outright capture by nongovernment personnel. "Announcing a reward or sending requests to Interpol is not the way to catch Mengele," he said. "The only way to do that is by an operation carried out by professionals."



Prosecutor Klein: An international effort in a race against time

liberated in January 1945, the baby died.

Beyond sheer madness and sadism, Mengele had a bizarre scientific purpose: to rebuild the "master race." He tried to turn brown eyes Aryan blue. He searched for the secret of producing twins so that Germany could replace its wartime losses more quickly. Aryan racial characteristics mattered greatly to Mengele—who looked a bit like a gypsy himself.

Mengele has survived many close calls during his years on the run. One German source says that after slipping away from Auschwitz, he hid out with a mistress named Wilma, a Jew he had spared from the gas chambers. One recently uncovered document suggests that, in 1947, an American intelligence unit in occupied Germany took Mengele into custody, briefly and inconclusively. Now the Justice Department has acquired documents that may help to establish whether U.S. officials deliberately allowed Mengele to escape. One dossier comes from the International Red Cross, which issued the passport that Mengele carried when he fled to Argentina in 1949, using the name Helmut Gregor. The passport file could reveal the route that Mengele took to get out of Europe—and who helped him.

Mercenaries: The reward money offered for Mengele's capture may

set some bounty hunters on his trail. New York attorney Gerald Posner, who is writing a book about Mengele, says he knows of two groups, one American and one Brazilian, that are planning expeditions to hunt for the Nazi doctor. But if Mengele is indeed hiding among Paraguay's 50,000 ethnic Germans, he will be difficult to locate. "If you're going to pull it off, you've got to get some money up front to do the reconnaissance, the travel, the bribery and to hire people," says Dale Dye, executive editor of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine,

the guide to two-fisted fantasy. Dye also warns that "the hoopla will just drive the guy underground if he's alive. So the real pros are just kind of laughing up their sleeves."

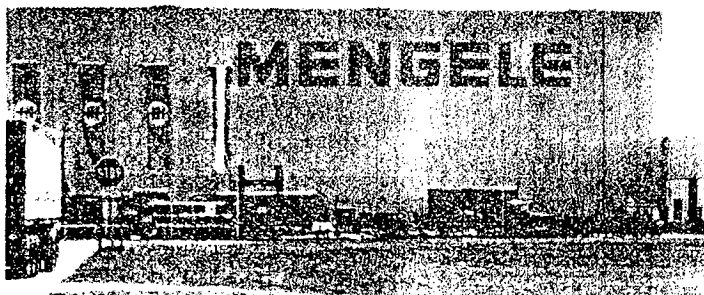
The report is dated Aug. 19, 1944. It is written by an SS officer whose signature is illegible. The subject is Josef Mengele. "He is absolutely dependable, upright and straightforward," writes the evaluator. "In his conduct toward his superiors, Mengele has shown the perfect behavior of an SS leader." The commander writes approvingly that Mengele "has used the little free time at his

disposal to broaden his studies and has made a valuable contribution in the field of anthropology by using the scientific materials at his disposal." The "scientific materials," presumably, include Jews, gypsies and other enemies of the Third Reich.

Josef Mengele ought to feel right at home in Paraguay, if he is still hiding out there. According to local sources, President Stroessner has told close friends that Hitler did not authorize the murder of the Jews; the death camps, he is said to believe, were the work of overzealous subordinates. Late last year, Elizabeth Holtzman, the Brooklyn, N.Y., district attorney, visited Paraguay with a group of Mengele hunters that included Beate Klarsfeld. "One of the most telling comments we received," Holtzman recalls, "was from the president of the Supreme Court, who said: 'We admire the Nazis. Not for their cruelty, but for their patriotism and their militarism.' That gives you a clear picture of the environment."

Image Problem: Like other top Paraguayan officials, Luis María Argaña, the head of the Supreme Court and a potential successor to the 72-year-old Stroessner, denies that the government is harboring Mengele. "Paraguay's image abroad is being deliberately distorted now by the press," he maintains. But Wiesenthal says he is "100 percent sure" that Mengele was holed up in Paraguay as recently as last June. And Serge Klarsfeld believes that "Mengele is living in a large private villa outside Asunción, either one owned by Stroessner himself or by a friend of Stroessner." The Paraguayan leader is scheduled to make a controversial state visit to West Germany next July, and Wiesenthal, for one, hopes that Chancellor Helmut Kohl will take the occasion to put on more pressure for extradition. Stroessner also wants a trip to Washington; in 1983 he fired his foreign minister for failing to cadge an invitation. But the Paraguayan president isn't likely to receive such an honor until he, or someone else, produces Josef Mengele—dead or alive.

RUSSELL WATSON with THEODORE STANGER in Asunción, ANDREW NAGORSKI in Bonn, MILAN J. KUBIC in Jerusalem, FRED COLEMAN in Paris, KIM WILLIAMS in Washington and bureau reports



The family firm in Günzburg: A continuing connection?

Some of Mengele's most gruesome experiments were performed on twins. Vera Alexander, a Jewish orderly who saw Mengele almost daily, recalls the fate of three-year-old Tito and Nino. "Mengele sewed them together, back to back," she has testified. "They screamed day and night from pain. Finally, their mother managed to get some morphine, and she killed them to end their misery." Mengele also specialized in eyes. In the fall of 1944, he began to experiment on a newborn baby named Dagmar, injecting dye into her eyeballs every day. Soon after Auschwitz was

✓ Detalles sobre la permanencia de Mengele en la Argentina

File:

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Munich, 9 (UP) - Después de fugarse de Europa, el médico nazi Josef Mengele, responsable de la muerte de 400.000 personas en campos de concentración, pasó inadvertido 11 años en la Argentina, antes de irse al Paraguay, informó hoy la revista "Bunte".

El semanario ilustrado, que tiene acceso a documentos de Mengele entregados por su hijo Rolf, añadió que ese período es el más oscuro en la vida del "ángel de la muerte".

Anotó que en 1949 Mengele salió de Génova, Italia, con un pasaporte falso y que el 17 de septiembre de ese año llegó a Buenos Aires, donde trabajó en diversos oficios y vivió en una serie de casas en la capital argentina, en los barrios de Florida y Olivos.

Rolf, relató a "Bunte", que su padre, a quien durante todo ese período lo conocía como "tío Fritz", en 1958 estableció un negocio maderero y de químicos, bajo el nombre de Helmut Grobe.

El negocio se llamó Fadrofarma y fue establecido con un aporte de 300.000 dólares en dinero y equipos del negocio familiar de los Mengele. La industria de esa familia, "Mengele e hijos", dedicada a la maquinaria agrícola es todavía la industria más grande del pueblo de Guenzburg, en Bavaria.

Excesiva confianza

Mengele, que por entonces no estaba siendo buscado por nadie, adquirió mucha confianza hasta el punto de ir a la embajada de Alemania occidental en Río de Janeiro, pidiendo y consiguiendo un pasaporte con su verdadero nombre, a pesar de tener otro a nombre de Grobe.

Rolf dijo a "Bunte" que cuando tenía 12 años viajó a Suiza en el invierno de 1956 junto a Mengele, para el todavía el "tío Fritz", para pasar diez días en la montaña. También viajó un primo de Rolf, Karl-Heinz, y Martha Mengele, viuda de un hermano de Josef Mengele. En julio de 1958 Mengele se casó con ella en Montevideo.

Rolf declaró que poco después de ese período le avisaron que "tío Fritz", en realidad era su padre, Josef Mengele, quien estaba acusado de colaborar en la matanza de miles de prisioneros en los campos de exterminación en Polonia durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Ubalдини reclamó equidad para superar el trance económico

La Prensa
10 July

El dirigente de la CGT, Saul Ubalдини, dijo que el esfuerzo para superar la crisis "debe ser equitativo, es decir, sacarle a los que tienen y no a los trabajadores, quienes han brindado todos sus esfuerzos en aras de la Patria".

Ubalдини, uno de los cuatro secretarios generales de la central obrera, afirmó que durante la reciente reunión con el presidente Alfonsín, la CGT reclamó reactivación económica, para que se cumpla con los objetivos de justicia social distributiva para enfrentar con éxito la crisis.

En cuanto a la comisión tripartita, cuya formación fue acordada con el presidente, Ubalдини dijo que "deberá analizar problema por problema, respetando el lugar que les corresponde a los trabajadores".

"Esto debe ser así -agregó- para que el pensamiento de los trabajadores tenga la receptividad que merece por ser el sector más sufrido de la sociedad argentina".

En declaraciones a Noticias Argentinas, Ubalдини manifestó que no puede todavía señalar si está satisfecho o no del encuentro con Alfonsín, porque "los resultados deben observarse en el trayecto que signifique la solución a nuestros problemas".

"El pueblo es el que debe dar su veredicto, entonces se sabrá cuál es el resultado de la entrevista", acotó.

Reactivación

Dijo también que "nosotros le hemos dicho al presidente que queremos que las medidas económicas dispuestas deben tener el grado de reactivación necesaria para que se cumpla con los objetivos de justicia social distributiva. Enfrentar con éxito la crisis depende de ello".

Ubalдини, quien se negó a formular declaraciones sobre el congreso justicialista de La Pampa, a renglón seguido indicó que "en este día de la independencia, quisiéramos brindar en la faz económica el homenaje a los padres de la Patria llevando a nuestra querida República al lugar que le corresponde en el concierto de las naciones".

"Es menester que entendamos que a los argentinos debe proponerse solamente un proyecto nacional realista que corresponda a las circunstancias políticas que vivimos -enfatizó- esa sería la idea fuerza materializada que nos lleve por el camino del reencuentro y la paz social".

Al respecto, puntualizó que "se deben ir cubriendo todas las necesidades que, en estos momentos padecemos los hogares argentinos, para abrir la instancia de fe y esperanza y para asegurar el porvenir no solamente de nuestros hijos, sino de nuestro país". Destacó que de esa manera "podremos salir de este constante devenir de opresión política o económica que nos quieren imponer". (NA)

LE

Ralph
Don

BUUSCA

Al Dr. Josef Mengele

Por sus crímenes contra la humanidad.

Josef Mengele fue el responsable por la muerte de 400.000 personas en el campo de concentración de Auschwitz. Torturó a niños e hizo sumir a sus padres, y fue el autor de atrocidades mediante experimentos médicos sobre sus víctimas.

Mengele, de 74 años de edad, 1,7 m (5'10") de estatura y de ojos pardos verdosos, se hizo ciudadano argentino en 1954 y paraguayo en 1959.

Las recompensas mundialmente ya ascienden a más de US\$ 2.375 millones por información que conduzca a la detención y extradición del Dr. Josef Mengele.

Diríjase a: Martin Mendelsohn, Apartado (P.O. Box) 33126, Washington, D.C. 20033, EE.UU., o llame al Centro Simon Wiesenthal, (213) 553-9036. Toda información es con carácter confidencial.



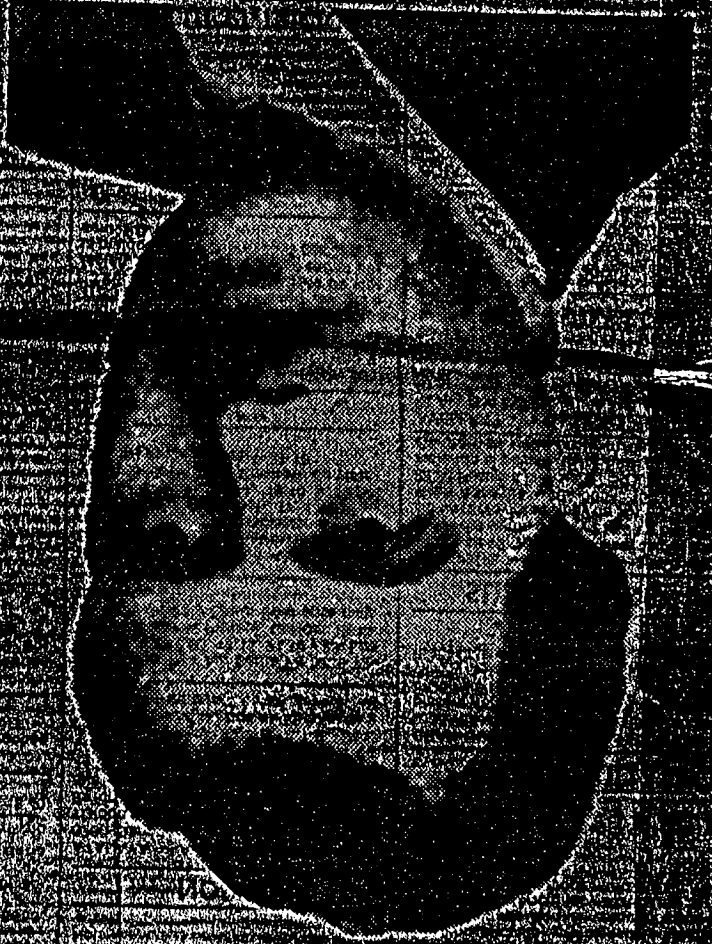
de cómo Mengele se

A - U.S. \$2.375.000

SOLICITADA

RECOMPENSA - U.S.

Mr. Wengle en sus años de años. Conception amica de como Wengle se venia en los 74 años.



STARS

CLARKIN
28 May 88

File

Polémica en Paraguay sobre Joseph Menguele

ASUNCION y RESISTENCIA 27 (DPA) de nuestra agencia) — El gobernador de la provincia paraguaya de Boquerón y escribano general del gobierno de Alfredo Stroessner, Juan José Benítez Ruckmann, negó categóricamente que el criminal de guerra nazi Joseph Menguele habite en el territorio de su dependencia. El callico, Beate Klarsfeld, como una señora que anda por el mundo propagando falsedades contra nuestro gobierno, mientras la cazadora de nazis, quien se encuentra en la capital paraguaya, insistió en acusar a las autoridades de Asunción de proteger al prófugo.

En Resistencia, donde se entrevistó con el gobernador del Chaco, Lorenzo Tener, el funcionario paraguayo respondió a requerimientos de la prensa indicando también que el exiliado dirigente del Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico, Domingo Laíno, alente desparadamente al hablar de la presencia de Menguele en Paraguay.

porque la única vez que estuvo en el país fue en 1957, cuando aún no era buscado como criminal de guerra, y posteriormente no se volvieron a tener noticias de él.

Benítez Ruckmann consideró como un insulto a la comunidad que habita el departamento de Itapúa el señalar que allí está Menguele, aunque admitió no estar en condiciones de desmentir que ese criminal pueda estar escondido en el territorio de su país.

En Asunción, mientras tanto, Beate Klarsfeld se quejó que el presidente Alfredo Stroessner será recibido en Alemania occidental cuando vaya allí en junio próximo, como protector del criminal nazi Joseph Menguele, y afirmó que el gobierno paraguayo no presta colaboración en la búsqueda.

La cazadora de nazis encabezó una manifestación frente al Palacio de Justicia en Asunción, llevando una pancarta en la que se leía "Stroessner, trémulo al decir que no sabe

donde está el SS Menguele. No vayas a Alemania sin él". La señora Klarsfeld fue luego invitada a abandonar el hotel en el que se alojaba por haber insultado al presidente.

Clarín
23 May 85

File

18005
DM

Reiteran que Menquuele reside en el Paraguay

El político paraguayo Domingo Alvarado, vicepresidente primero del partido liberal Radical Auténtico, exiliado, ya que se encuentra exiliado en Buenos Aires tras ser expulsado de su país en 1982, acusó al presidente Alfredo Stroessner de encubrir al asesino de la Jota Menquuele.

Alvarado afirmó que "no me sorprende que el Canal 13 de televisión de Asunción haya llegado a difundir propaganda destinada a procurar el exilio de los miembros de la guerrilla en mi país".

Un momento de acusación de velando que el título de la emisora "Nicolás Bó", es socio de Stroessner en una serie de empresas entre ellas un importante importador y exportador de cemento, quinientos latas de cigarrillos y que la misma mandaba en el gobierno de Bordaberry.

Alvarado no sabe dónde vive Menquuele, y dijo que Menquuele vivió en el Paraguay tras haber sido expulsado de la ciudadanía paraguaya el 27 de noviembre de 1968 por resolución de la Suprema Corte de

Justicia número 903/74. El primer número del diario "El Político" de la 208 y 459. El político dijo que el médico Menquuele, a su vez, es un ciudadano argentino que se encuentra exiliado en la calle Vélez Sarsfield 368 de Vicente López, cerca de la casa portuaria de Villalba, en el barrio de Villa del Medico, zona del barrio del Medico, zona del barrio de Villa del Medico, zona del barrio de Villa del Medico.

El doctor Menquuele, en su propia declaración, en la calle Mariscal López, en la ciudad de Buenos Aires, dijo que Menquuele, en el momento de su exilio, tenía numerosos hijos, los que se encuentran en el Paraguay, Menquuele, en el momento de su exilio, tenía numerosos hijos, los que se encuentran en el Paraguay, Menquuele, en el momento de su exilio, tenía numerosos hijos, los que se encuentran en el Paraguay.

7 June 85

B

Investigation under way

Mengele body found in Brazil?

EMBUP-Brazil
BRAZILIAN police yesterday dug up a grave here they believed held the body of Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death" sought for the deaths of 400,000 Jews in Auschwitz concentration camp.

Scores of police moved into a hillside cemetery in this town outside São Paulo to exume the remains of a man who died in a swimming accident in 1979 and was buried as Wolfgang Gerhard. São Paulo police chief Romeu Tuma, who was at the graveside to supervise the exhumation, told journalists earlier he was 90 percent certain the body was that of Mengele, long reported to be living in South America.

West German Consular representative Sette Wolker said the latest turn in the hunt for the Nazi war criminal followed a West German police investigation in a Mengele home town of Gunzburg, where they learned there was a real possibility he was living in São Paulo.

Tuma said the real Wolfgang Gerhard had been found dead beside his car in Austria six months before the burial in Embu of the man interred under this name.

A former cemetery administrator here said the body believed by police to be Mengele lay beside that of a woman whose son used to visit the grave regularly. Gino Carita, who managed the 7,000-grave hillside cemetery from 1962 to 1983, said a man he knew as Wolfgang Gerhard used to visit the burial plot of his mother, Friederike, every three months since her death in 1961.

Several foreigners had brought a body they said was Gerhard's for burial in 1979 after police said he was drowned in a swimming accident.

Police took the plaque bearing Wolfgang Gerhard's name off the grave yesterday.

Carita said Gerhard, who appeared to be well over 60 years old, was a well-mannered and polite. He was tall, of athletic build and had pale-coloured eyes. Tuma said Brazilian police had discovered the grave while interrogating an elderly Austrian couple living in São Paulo.

He said the couple, Wolfram and Lisolotte Bosser, had said the man was introduced to them by Gerhard around 1970 as a man on the run who was in trouble because of the war.

About a year later, Gerhard told the couple that the man was Mengele, Tuma added.

A search of the Bosser house in São Paulo had revealed documents apparently belonging to Mengele, including a photograph of the Nazi doctor, Tuma said.

The police chief said he believed Mengele had lived in the

São Paulo suburb of Eldorado Paulista between 1969 and 1979, using Austrian identity papers.

Mengele was last reported seen in Paraguay, but authorities there have repeatedly denied he is still in the country.

He gained the tag "Angel of Death" for his handsome appearance and apparently kindly manner at Auschwitz, where he sent prisoners to gas chambers and performed horrific experiments on inmates, especially twins and children.

Brazilian Colonel José Antonio De Mello, who was present at the exhumation, said it would probably take about 15 days before the body could be positively identified.

The grave was unkempt and overgrown, and Carita said no one had visited it since the man's burial in 1979.

The cemetery register, seen by journalists before police removed it yesterday morning, said the man had died on February 7, 1979, at 7.45pm and was buried the following day.

His age was stated as 52, but Carita said the buried woman's son appeared to be well over 60.

The register described the man as a mechanic and a widower and named his parents as Friederike and Ernesto Gerhard.

The witness who identified the body before it was interred was Lisolotte Bosser, who was said by local radio stations to be a 65-year-old woman teacher of German origin, interviewed by police in São Paulo on Wednesday.

De Mello said the remains would be taken to a forensic laboratory in São Paulo for examination.

Tuma said scientists would be looking in particular for a fracture to the left hand of the body as Mengele broke his hand at the age of nine.

Brazilian police had asked West German authorities for records of Mengele's dental and bone structure, he added.

In Bonn West German officials reacted cautiously yesterday to reports from Brazil that notorious Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele was probably dead.

"It's a possibility we have to investigate," Frankfurt state prosecutor Heinz Hauelsen told West German television (ARD).

"We have recently obtained written evidence which suggests Mengele may no longer be alive, (but) I cannot yet say whether (the corpse) is Mengele or whether we will 'once again' be unsuccessful," he said.

In Asunción, Paraguayan officials said the exhumation near São Paulo yesterday of a body believed by Brazilian police to be that of Josef Mengele would disprove charges that Paraguay was sheltering him. (Reuters)

La Prensa
27 May 88

File: Mexico

Josef Mengele

Recuerdos de su estadía en la Argentina con la propia identidad

Como es de público conocimiento en una entrevista que el diario "The New York Times" de los Estados Unidos, hizo hace pocos días al cazador de nazis Simón Wiesenthal, éste manifestó que tres personas desconocidas entre sí, vieron en julio de 1984 a Josef Mengele, que fue coronel médico de las SS durante la dictadura de Hitler, en la localidad paraguaya de Capitán Miranda. Se anunció asimismo la institución de una recompensa de 2375.000 dólares para quien descubra su paradero.

Antecedentes en el país

Recordaremos al respecto que a mediados de junio de 1960, un cable proveniente de Bonn, Alemania Occidental, hizo saber que el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de ese país había pedido al gobierno argentino la extradición del ex-tercer nazis, el médico del campo de concentración de Auschwitz durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, acusado de crímenes de guerra. Tras la correspondiente tramitación, así como diligencias especiales originadas en la falta de un tratado en la materia, el 19 de julio del mismo año la Policía Federal dispuso su captura mediante una publicación en la Orden del día de la repartición que decía así:

Se ordena la captura de Josef Mengele, prontuario número 33.940.848, Cédula de Identidad de hijo de Karl y de Vbalburga Hupfahuer, nacido el 16 de marzo de 1911 en Grunsbürg, provincia de Bavaria, Alemania, casado en segundas nupcias con Marta Maria Wilfl, con domicilio en la calle 5 de Julio número 1074 de San Isidro, provincia de Buenos Aires, y en Virrey Vertiz 790 de Vicente López, provincia de Buenos Aires. Causa 575, caratulado República Federal de Alemania, s/pedido de extradición de Josef Mengele, oficio 674 y 704 del juez federal de San Martín, provincia de Buenos Aires, doctor Jorge Luque.

Una crónica de 1960

Consideramos ahora de interés reproducir textualmente la crónica que como consecuencia de un artículo publicado en la prensa argentina del 21 de



Mengele, según una fotografía difundida por la policía en 1960.

Antes nombrados, el ex-agente nazi, las lincas, en el barrio de San Isidro, en el 790 de la calle Virrey Vertiz, de Vicente López.

Con el objeto de conocer algunos detalles relacionados con su residencia en el país, nos trasladamos al Vicente López y comprobamos la exactitud de la primera dirección, no así respecto de la segunda, pues en realidad el domicilio de Mengele fue en la calle Virrey Vertiz 970.

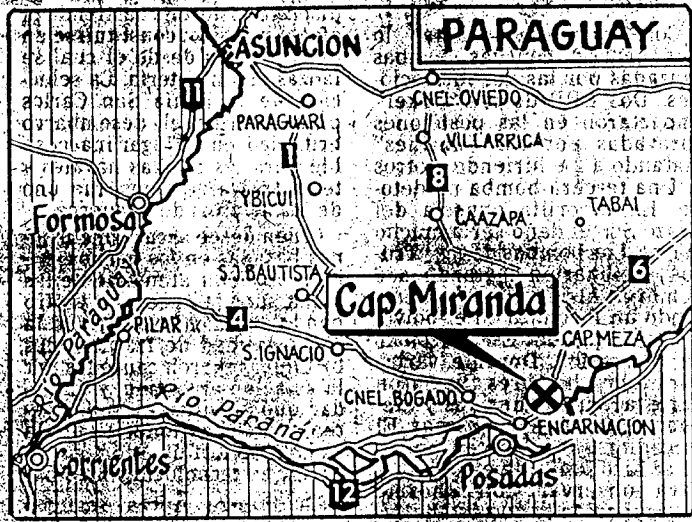
Las dos viviendas están situadas en el barrio residencial de Vicente López, y en la primera de ellas, de la calle 5 de Julio, no pudimos obtener ninguna información ya que sus habitantes se negaron a aportar cualquier clase de datos.

Ante nuestro requerimiento, una joven de aproximadamente 15 años que vestía el uniforme verde de la escuela a la que concurrían el hijastro del doctor Mengele, nos expresó que nada podía decir, tras lo cual cerró la puerta y se fue.

En casas vecinas pudimos establecer que la familia que ocupa la casa es de nacionalidad alemana y que hace aproximadamente 10 años que reside allí.

La última residencia conocida de Mengele

No nos trasladamos después a la escuela, diciendo la crónica



En el mapa se señala la localidad de Capitán Miranda, en el Paraguay, donde según Simón Wiesenthal había sido visto Mengele en julio del año anterior.

lo que nada sabía de la existencia de Mengele, que su esposa había alquilado la casa por medio de una compañía que se ocupa de esas operaciones.

Nunca cambió de nombre

Mayores datos pudimos obtener en casas de vecinos, quienes nos ratificaron que Josef Mengele había habitado la casa durante dos años, desde septiembre de 1957 hasta octubre o noviembre de 1959, y que en el barrio se le conocía por su propio nombre, lo que significa que en ningún momento procuró ocultar su identidad.

Sus costumbres

Josef Mengele, según afirmaron sus vecinos, era un individuo cortés pero que no otorgaba ninguna clase de confianza o amistad a los habitantes del barrio. Hacía una vida retraída y recibía pocas visitas, las que parecían circunscribirse a dos o tres matrimonios alemanes que lo visitaban en algunas oportunidades.

Acostumbraba a efectuar largos paseos por la casa acompañado de su esposa y de una perra boxer de nombre "Bela", a la que aparentemente profesaban ambos un gran cariño. El matrimonio parecía estar bien avenido y no tenían discusiones, su hijastro, el joven Carlos Enrique Mengele, parecía temer al jefe de la familia, según opinaron algunas personas.

poseer un servidumbre, la señora hacía todas las compras, y el hijo estudiaba en un colegio alemán.

En cuanto al joven Carlos Enrique, de 19 años de edad, estudiaba en el Colegio Alemán del Norte, situado en la localidad de Martínez, donde estaba inscripto con el apellido de Mengele, según pudimos establecer. El joven finalizó sus estudios en esa escuela el año pasado y sus compañeros no volvieron a verlo.

Su porvenir en la Argentina

"Tuvimos oportunidad de conversar con una profesora del establecimiento citado, quien nos refirió una anécdota acerca del joven Mengele. Explicó que no era un buen alumno en castellano, razón por la cual debió aplazarlo, y luego le pidió que fuera a la escuela acompañado por su padre. Fue así como conoció a Josef Mengele, a quien calificó de hombre distinguido y simpático. La profesora manifestó al doctor Mengele que si su hijo no pensaba regresar a Alemania debía hacerse de amigos argentinos para aprender a dominar el castellano. Entonces el doctor Mengele dijo: 'Mi hijo está muy equivocado si cree que va a volver a Alemania. Yo le he hecho comprender que su porvenir y el de su padre están en la Argentina'.

Los subtítulos en letra negra corresponden igualmente a esa información que decía así: "El doctor Mengele, médico y militar alemán, cuya extradición pidió recientemente la República Federal de Alemania a la Argentina y al Brasil. La policía dio como posi-

ble, varios de cuyos vecinos, al volver a ver el retrato de Mengele que publicamos hace varios días, afirmaron que este había habitado allí por espacio de dos años.

En la actualidad la finca está alquilada, desde hace poco más de un mes, por el señor Roberto Walther, de nacionalidad norteamericana, quien vive en compañía de su esposa y de un hijo de un año de edad. La señora de Walther nos manifes-

tó que casada primero con un hermano de este que falleció en la guerra y de ese matrimonio nació el joven Carlos Enrique. La familia poseía un coche de marca americana que era utilizado solamente por Mengele, quien a veces se ausentaba de la capital en viaje de negocios, según decía. A ese respecto conversamos con un joven que era amigo del muchacho, quien nos aportó datos, según los cuales el médico nazi tenía aserradero en la zona norte del país.

Este joven, hijo de un militar americano que cumple funciones en la embajada de su país en la Argentina, nos manifestó que había visitado en muchas oportunidades la casa de los Mengele y agregó que éste siempre había rehuido temas relativos a la guerra mundial.

El amigo de Carlos Enrique nos expresó que a veces le hacía preguntas sobre la contienda pero que éstas nunca tuvieron respuesta de parte de Mengele. Manifestó, si, en una oportunidad, que era doctor en medicina pero que no ejercía la profesión.

En el orden hogareño, la familia parecía gozar de todas las comodidades, tenía una casa bien amueblada, con pileta de natación y, según lo dicho por señoras que hacían las compras habituales con la esposa de Mengele, gustaban de la buena mesa. Sus comidas principales se componían de legumbres de todas clases y diariamente adquirían "yoghurt" y leche envasada. Como decimos arriba,

y preparativos de fuga.

La familia vivió normalmente hasta septiembre de 1959, fecha en que la señora Mengele, según afirmaron los vecinos, empezó a hacer circular la versión de que iban a abandonar la Argentina para ir a Alemania a divorciarse. La noticia causó extrañeza, ya que, como dijimos, la familia parecía llevarse perfectamente y nunca tuvieron discusiones en público.

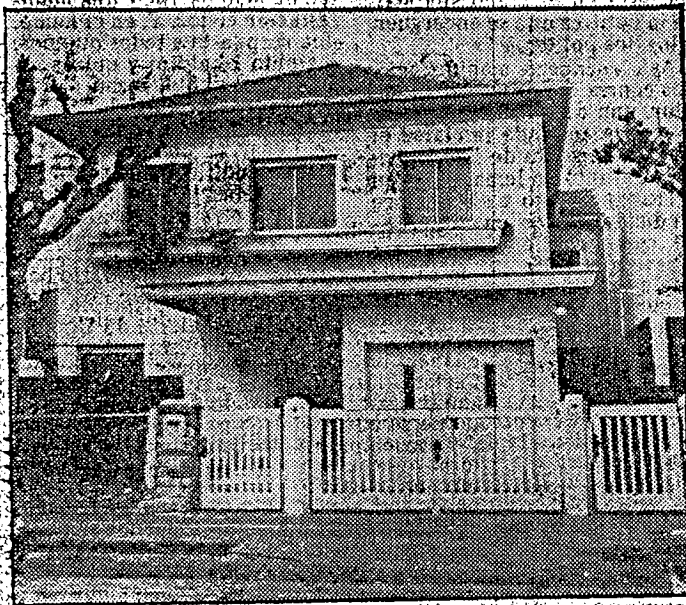
Al mes de hacer ese anuncio, esto es en octubre o noviembre de 1959, la familia partió en forma totalmente imprevista sin dejar a nadie su nueva dirección y sin despedirse. Un camión de mudanzas llegó por la mañana y cargo algunos muebles. Después nunca más fue visto en la zona el doctor Mengele.

Estarian su esposa e hijo en Buenos Aires

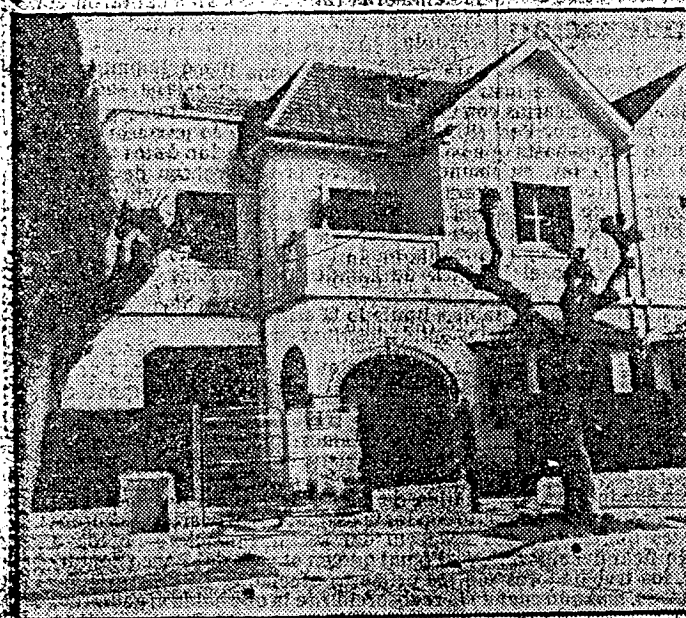
Si bien no se volvió a tener noticias de Mengele, decía "La Prensa" en 1960, su hijo, en cambio, fue visto en varias oportunidades por el barrio, adonde concurría para visitar a algunos amigos. Conversamos con algunos de ellos, quienes nos dijeron que tenían idea de que Carlos Enrique y su madre vivían en una casa de pensión

en Vicente López, pero que no conocían su ubicación y que el joven no la había proporcionado. También expresaron que ya hace más de dos meses que Carlos Enrique no aparece por la zona.

Así finalizaba la información que publicamos hace 25 años y que, como decimos al comienzo, consideramos oportuno reproducir ahora en virtud de la notoriedad que ha vuelto a tener la figura de Mengele y su presunto actual paradero.



Casa señalada con el número 970 de la calle Virrey Velaz, en Vicente López, donde Mengele habitó durante dos años sin ocultar su identidad, y de la que desapareció en octubre del año 1959. (Fotografía de "La Prensa", obtenida en 1960).



La vivienda situada en la calle 6 de Julio 1074, en San Isidro, posible domicilio de Mengele de acuerdo con la información policial suministrada en 1960, año en el que "La Prensa" tomó esta fotografía.

La con
30 May 85

Handwritten signature or initials in the top right corner.

File:)

Se niega que Mengele esté en una isla correntina

Provincia de Corrientes, en un comunicado a conocer ayer por la tarde, restó credibilidad a afirmaciones realizadas por dos pescadores que, en declaraciones periódicas, dijeron haber sido agredidos por balazos por un desconocido en la isla Cabral, hecho que se vinculó con la probable presencia en la zona del criminal nazi Joseph Mengele. El comunicado del organismo de seguridad estatal que, ante tal información y a fin de mantener la calma pública informada, se prensa al respecto, dice que, para llevar tranquilidad a la población, se localizó a los ciudadanos Francisco Narvaez y Carlos Alberto Lopez, presuntas víctimas de la agresión con armas.

Posteriormente, agregó, se destinó a guardacostas en la zona mencionada, juntamente con los citados ciudadanos, con el objeto de corroborar y desvirtuar las manifestaciones efectuadas por los nombrados ante la prensa.

B.A. Herald
12 June 88

CASA

Mengelle

Mengelle's son says father died

Munich
JOSEF Mengelle, the Auschwitz
extermination camp doctor, died
in a Brazilian swimming accident
after eluding Jewish and other
pursuers for 34 years, after the end
of World War II, his family said
yesterday.

The statement, prompted by
the exhumation of a body from a
14-year-old grave near Sao Paulo,
supported accounts of Mengelle's
end gathered by police in Brazil
and West Germany.

But Israel's Justice Ministry
said it would continue the hunt
for the Mengele, who sent people
to the gas chambers and
conducted gruesome experiments
on children.

He is the most sought-after
Nazi, not finally accounted for
and still alive, would now be
dead.

Jewish groups dedicated to
hunting down war criminals were
also sceptical, noting that if
Mengelle were still alive it would
be greatly to his advantage to be
thought dead.

Brazilian authorities planned to
continue the search for the
examination of the remains,
bones and other items of
evidence.

In Vienna, a friend of an
acquaintance disclosed that the
real Wolfgang Gerhard, the
Austrian under whose name the
body now said to be Mengele was
buried, remained a committed
Nazi until his death in 1978, and
even decorated his family
Christmas tree with a Hitler
swastika emblem.

After a week of mounting
speculation, Josef Mengele, son of
the war criminal, known as the
Angel of Death, broke his
silence in a statement to Reuters
on behalf of his family, saying
that his father had died more than
six years ago.

"I have no doubt that the body
recovered in the graveyard at
Embu, Brazil, on June 5, 1983, is
my father's."

He delivered a declaration to the
Public Prosecutor and regional
court in Frankfurt on behalf of
himself and family name of his
family.

He flew to the place (in
Brazil) in 1979 to personally
confirm the circumstances of his
death, the statement continued.

The grave opened last week in
Brazil was that of a man buried as
Wolfgang Gerhard.

Police in Sao Paulo said the
real Wolfgang Gerhard had been
found dead beside his car in
Austria six months before the
burial of the man interred under
his name.

Israel, however, refused to
accept the word of Mengele's son
and said it would continue the
search for him.

Israel will continue its efforts
to trace where Mengele is in order
to bring him to justice in Israel,
a Justice Ministry spokesman
said.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim
last month announced Israel was
prepared to pay a million-dollar
reward for information leading
to his capture.

He was born in 1928 in
Grafenau, Austria.

Ken
Gon

Mengele

Martes 11 de junio de 1985

Se aguardan nuevas pistas en el caso de Josef Mengele

SAN PABLO, D.R. (Rente). La policía dice que un dentista de esta ciudad podría aportar una nueva pista importante respecto de si los restos exhumados de una tumba en Embu son los del criminal de guerra nazi Josef Mengele.

El jefe de la Policía Federal, Rómulo Tuma, dijo anoche a los periodistas que un dentista había telefonado a la policía diciendo que pudo haber tratado al hombre en la urbe antes de que muriera en un accidente de natación en 1979 y fuera sepultado como Wolfgang Gerhard.

Expertos forenses comenzaron a preparar hoy los restos para un cuidadoso examen que permita determinar si se corresponden con la historia médica de Mengele, el "ángel de la muerte" nazi buscado por la muerte de 400.000 judíos en el campo de concentración de Auschwitz.

Tuma sólo dijo que los registros dentales podrían brindar el tipo de prueba necesaria para extinguir toda duda.

Pero el único registro conocido que ahora se encuentra aquí data de antes de la Segunda Guerra y funcionarios alemanes dicen dudar de su utilidad debido al tiempo transcurrido.

El hijo de Mengele, Gerd, dijo a los periodistas que su padre había muerto en un accidente de natación en 1979 y fue sepultado como Wolfgang Gerhard.

Los próximos días dará una declaración escrita a la Agencia DPA, pero que no dará ninguna conferencia de prensa.

El hijo de Mengele, que tiene casi 50 años y trabajaba como abogado hasta ahora, siempre negó haber hablado incluso por teléfono con los periodistas.

En los años de la guerra (1939-45) Mengele tomó a miles de judíos y otros detenidos en el campo de concentración nazi de Auschwitz (Oświęcim) a experimentos quirúrgicos que regularmente contribuían con la muerte de los pacientes.

Denuncia de Wiesenthal
EN NUEVA YORK (Rente). El cazador de nazis Simon Wiesenthal manifestó que el gobierno de Alemania Federal trató de pagar al Paraguay para extraditar al criminal de guerra nazi Josef Mengele en 1964.

En un discurso en una sinagoga, Wiesenthal señaló que el ex-canciller Konrad Adenauer ofreció comprar la extradición de Mengele duplicando la asistencia de Alemania Federal al Paraguay de ocho millones a 16 millones de marcos.

Pero expresó que el presidente del Paraguay, General Alfredo Stroessner, rechazó la oferta.

Wiesenthal acotó que se enteró de la oferta en 1964 por Fritz Bauer, el fiscal general de Frankfurt, quien fue el hermano de Mengele.

Clarín
10 June 88

MENGELE

Kolp
Don

CLARIN ★ Buenos Aires, lunes

DOS A MENGELE

para un cada



Pablo en 1969 y vivió en ella hasta su muerte en el accidente de natación el 7 de febrero de 1979.

Su última dirección, Eldorado Es- trada Alvarenga 5555 (seguramente hoy número 5575) la pareció en una agenda encontrada el 31 de mayo por las autoridades en la casa de Hans Sedlmelér, un ex empleado de la firma de maquinaria agrícola que la familia Mengele posee en Guenzburg, indicó "Die Welt".

El verdadero Wolfgang Gerhard re- gresó a su ciudad de Graz, en Austria, en 1974. Antes de hacerlo, entregó a Mengele su pasaporte brasileño, licen- cia de manejar y permiso de trabajo.

El verdadero Gerhard murió en Graz el 16 de diciembre de 1978, afirmó "Die Welt".

El hijo de Mengele, Rolf, lo visitó en Brasil en 1977 y 1978.

La Navidad de 1979, tras la muerte de su padre, Rolf Mengele visitó la tumba y la fotografía, contó la señora Bossert, según "Die Welt".

Un reloj de oro que pertenecía a Men- gele fue entregado a Rolf.

Mengele tenía una separación entre las palas frontales que se hizo cerrar para ocultar su identidad.

Se hizo alterar estos dientes duran- te su estancia en la Argentina, por lo que años después usó dentadura postiza, habría dicho Bossert. Se sometió además a cirugía plástica en la Argen- tina, aunque no salió bien y le dejó "castrices".

La correspondencia de Mengele fue enviada a un intermediario en Augs- burg, quien a su vez la envió a las per- sonas de contacto en Guenzburg. Men- gele en estas cartas, aparecía como "Beppo".

Los fiscales de Frankfurt encargados del caso Mengele dijeron a los periodis- tas que las autoridades encontraron las cartas en una casa de Guenzburg el 31 de mayo, lo que les condujo a la tumba de Brasil.

Quiénes descreen de la autenticidad de los huesos, aparecen encabezados por el gobierno de Israel. Hoy, un fun- cionario del Ministerio de Justicia de- claró que la raza de Mengele "prosi- gué" y Nahman Rossek, perteneciente

B.A. Herald
9 June 85

Police chemists, but

Coroner says body too young to be Mengele

Sao Paulo, Brazil — Police chemists, but coroners, who examined the bones of a 1979 victim, who police believe was an criminal, said yesterday the body was too young to have been a victim of the notorious "angel of death" and Brazilian police chief.

Wolfgang Gerhard, all toward continuing his Mengele responsible for murder of 4,000 people, of them Jews in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, in 1979 winning a Nobel prize. Sao Paulo police believe the man buried last year was too young to have been a victim of the notorious "angel of death" and Brazilian police chief.

Coroner, the police examination of the skeleton of the body, and they hope to be able to say whether the remains are those of Mengele or not. The body was found in 1979 in the ruins of Mengele's 1937 home in Germany.

The body was found in the ruins of a house in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where a couple, Leticia and Volmar, were living. The couple, who were living in the house, said they believed the man was Mengele, and they had been told by his son, who had been living in Germany, that the body was his father's.

Police revealed new testimony from a witness, an attempt to prove Mengele's identity. The witness, who was living in Sao Paulo, said he had seen Mengele in 1961 to 1979 and that he had seen him with a woman, who was living in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and who was the wife of a man who was living in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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Op

Page 1
Mengele

B.A. Herald
3 June 85

W. J. H. H.

Mengele

Mengele impossible to identify?

Sao Paulo
A BRAZILIAN forensic expert said yesterday it might not be possible to positively identify bones dug up from a Sao Paulo grave on Thursday as those of Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz camp doctor, accused of murdering 400,000 Jews.

A forensic examination does not give the name of a person. It is only one element in a police investigation, Jose Antonio Mello, head of the coroner's team, told a news conference.

Sao Paulo federal police chief Romel Lima has said he is 90 percent certain that the 40-year search for Mengele is over.

But some Nazi hunters, including Simon Wiesenthal, have rejected the idea, saying they have good evidence Mengele is alive and living in Paraguay.

Mello said much would depend on what was revealed in medical documents, which have been requested from Germany.

German records earlier showed Mengele had been in Brazil in 1947 and 1948. The medical reports

contained some readily identifiable physical characteristics, such as broken limbs, which then matched the bones. This would obviously be a strong clue, he said. Mello said he believed forensic work would take around 15 days, and no outside investigators would be allowed to examine the remains until the Brazilians had finished.

Neil Sher, chief of the US Justice Department's special investigation office, arrived in Sao Paulo yesterday to help with the inquiry. US consular officials said.

Mello noted that the dental records dated back to 1937, which could complicate the process of comparison with the teeth in the skull exhumed from a graveyard at Embul, 30 kms west of Sao Paulo.

An initial examination had revealed that the dead man had dentures in the upper and lower jaw but there were seven original teeth, one of which had a filling which appeared to be gold, the said.

Lima said the dental records were being handed over to the coroner's office, where the bones are also stored.

He showed journalists a book found at the home of Austrian couple Wolfram and Elisabeth Bossert. The Bosserts have said the dead man had admitted his identity to them before he died.

Lima, wearing white gloves to protect the evidence, also had

B.A. Donald
7 June 85

Investigation under way

Mengele body found in Brazil?

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Police here yesterday dug up a skeleton they believed had the body of Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death" sought for the last of 40,000 Jews in Auschwitz concentration camp.

Scots of police moved into a hillside cemetery in this town outside Sao Paulo to exume the remains of a man who died in a synagogal accident in 1979 and was buried as Wolfgang Gerdand.

Sao Paulo police chief, Romeno Lima, who was at the exhumation to supervise the exhumation, told journalists earlier he was 90 percent certain the body was that of Mengele, long reported to be living in South America.

West German politician Wolfgang Gerdand, 57, who fled with the Nazi war criminal, Otto von Guericke, police investigation in Mengele's name to a Cologne, where they earned here was a real to shun. He was living in Sao Paulo.

Lima said the real Wolfgang Gerdand had been found dead beside his car in Vienna 11 months before he came in limousine of the man interred under this name.

A former secretary of administration here and the body believed by police to be Mengele's beside his 1972 woman, whose car used to run the city regularly.

Ono Gerdand, who married the 1602-year-old sister, sister from 1972 to 1983, and a man, the then Wolfgang Gerdand, died 1979 at his home not in the mother's residence, Sao Paulo, north of the city, he said.

Photography of the exhumation was taken by Brazilian police and the same state and federal (Reuters).

Sao Paulo, suburb of a Hitorado, 1969 and 1979, using Austrian identity papers.

Mengele, a last reported seen in Paraguay, but since then, he have reportedly denied he's still in the country.

He claimed the age of 1979. Death of his first handsome appearance and apparently, and manner, as Auschwitz, the German physicians to his thin build and open mouthed, a historic experience, on a film.

Brazilian colonel of Antonio DeMello, who was present at the exhumation, said it would probably take about 15 days before the body could be positively identified.

He gave no attempt, and the exhumation and burial and no body had been found since 1979.

The chief of police, a journalist, police police, cannot be identified, however, and he had the only copy of the following day.

His car was found in 1979, and the buried woman's name was reported to be 1970.

He said he described the man as 1.60m and 1.60m, and named his parents as under the name of Gerdand.

The witness who identified the body as his was interred in a house, 1979, who was aided by local radio station, 1979, 1979.

German woman, sister of German, often interviewed by police in Sao Paulo in 1979.

DeMello said the woman would be taken to a forensic pathologist by Brazilian police, and the body of Josef Mengele would be taken to Germany.

Mengele

La Nación
17 June 8

Kelly
17/6/8

FILE

Lunes 17 de junio de 1985

Dicen que Mengele vive en Paraguay

Afirman en Israel que el criminal de guerra está gravemente enfermo de cáncer

HAMBURGO, 16 (AP). El criminal de guerra nazi Josef Mengele vive en el Paraguay, pero está gravemente enfermo de cáncer, dijeron fuentes israelíes, según dos periódicos.

Bild am Sonntag, de esta ciudad, sostiene que el servicio secreto israelí (Mossad) afirma haber comprobado la presencia del fugitivo nazi en varios países de América desde 1979, año en que familiares de Mengele afirmaron que murió.

Entrevista exclusiva

Explica que obtuvo la información en una entrevista exclusiva con un agente del Mossad. Lo identifica solo como "Motti" y dice que la entrevista se efectuó en un oficina de Tel Aviv anexa al ministerio israelí de Defensa.

Le dió algo que el mundo debe saber: el doctor Mengele está vivo, pero muy enfermo. Está muy enfermo de cáncer, agregó.

Por su parte, Well Am Sonntag atribuyó a un funcionario israelí haber dicho simplemente que Mengele estaba vivo.

El diario también publicado en Hamburgo, atribuye al jefe de la unidad policial israelí encargada de perseguir a los criminales de guerra nazis, Menahem Rossack, haber declarado que el criminal Josef Mengele está vivo.

Bild am Sonntag dice que Rossack aseguró que el cadáver enterrado el 5 de junio cerca de San Pablo no era el de Mengele.

Fotografía

Según el agente israelí, Mengele fue fotografiado en junio de 1980 por agentes del Mossad en Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. La revista no publica la foto, pero dice si el periodista pidió que se la mostraran.

Mengele fue visto después en el Paraguay, el Uruguay y la Argentina, y ahora vive en el Paraguay, según Motti.

pero Werner Thomas hablo en San Pablo, con una ex sirvienta del prisionero Ines Menich, que habría dicho que Mengele abandonó su casa con equipaje dos días antes del que se supone que murió.

Los días antes de su muerte parecía aturdido. A la tarde sorprendentemente lempaco vino. Me voy a la playa por que mi vida termino. Fue hasta la parada de autobuses y no volvió mas. Dijo que la muerte de Mengele es una historia manifiesta de distracción, preguntó.

Este es la primera versión periodística alemana que cuestiona seriamente el anuncio de la muerte de Mengele.

Well Am Sonntag también tituló hoy un artículo en que esa revista plantea discrepancias planteadas en la información disponible. Llega a la conclusión de que aumentan los indicios de que las autoridades investigadoras fueron conducidas a una pista falsa.

Datos médicos

SAN PABLO, 16 (AP). Un antropólogo brasileño formuló hoy una exhortación muy especial al centro simon Wiesenthal en Los Angeles para que le suministre más datos médicos a fin de ayudar en la identificación de los restos del hitlerista. El criminal de guerra nazi es Mengele.

Necesitamos información más precisa, dijo el doctor Wilmes Teixeira, miembro de un grupo internacional de expertos en medicina forense que ofrece los restos.

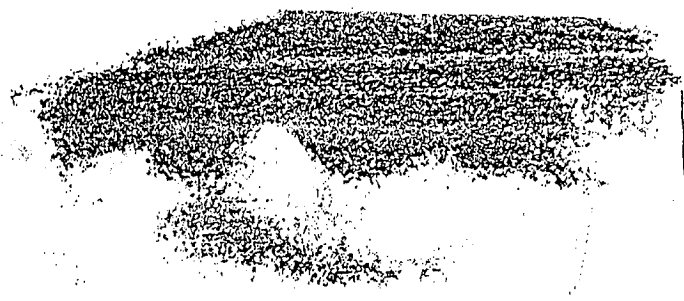
Once expertos no americanos, alemanes y brasileños examinarán mañana los huesos enterrados en el acantilado que se estima son los del Angel de la Muerte del campo de concentración de Auschwitz, acusado de enviar a las cámaras de gas a centenares de miles de judíos durante el Segundo Guerra Mundial.

FILE

100

THE VICTIMS OF
HIS MURDEROUS
RACIAL EXPERIMENTS
WERE OFTEN
CHILDREN AND TWINS
AND ON THE EVE
OF A HISTORIC REUNION OF
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS,
HE STILL RUNS FREE

DR. MENGELE



Survivors recall the haunting stare of Josef Mengele (above) who performed his macabre experiments on twins at Auschwitz (right).

This June, in what promises to be one of history's most extraordinary reunions, some 10,000 survivors of Nazi concentration camps and their families are gathering in Jerusalem. The pilgrims will march at dusk with lit candles to the shrine of the Wailing Wall. Each will bring a stone etched with the names of immediate family members killed by the Nazis. Together, the stones will serve as a monument to the six million European Jews who perished between 1939 and 1945 at the hands of the Third Reich. "We hope to speak with one voice as a testament to the survival power of our people," say organizers of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, "and to serve notice that this must never happen again." Theirs will be not only a symbolic homecoming but also a final opportunity for many of the aging former inmates to meet friends they have not seen in more than a generation.

The horrors of the past, of course, will flood the memories of those reuniting in Jerusalem. And foremost in the recollection of many will be the name and visage of Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous "angel of death" of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. As SS physician of this huge camp in Poland, Mengele would personally greet incoming trainloads of Jews each day and, with a whimsical flick of his cane ("to the left, to the right"), would indicate who was to be sent immediately to the crematoriums and who was to live to die another day. Between 1943 and 1945 it is es-

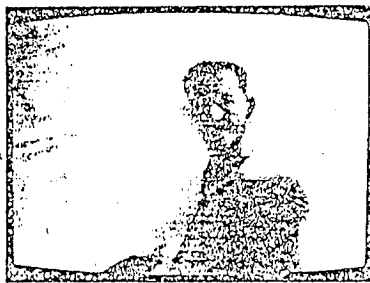
timated that Mengele ordered 380,000 people to their deaths. But he was more than an enthusiastic collaborator in Hitler's "final solution." A "racial biologist," the doctor developed and carried out a scheme that transcended mass extermination. He hoped to discover the genetic secrets that would help him breed an all-Aryan superrace. To this end, he experimented on 200 sets of twins in his one-of-a-kind hygiene lab at Auschwitz. By studying the twins, Mengele believed he could discover how German mothers might produce children faster through multiple births. He also used twins, as well as 2,000 children, in tests attempting to turn their eyes blue and their hair blond. He and his technicians injected dye into their eyes, chloroform into their hearts, and took knives and needles to their skulls and spines. He castrated some, sterilized others. When he was through experimenting with them, his "guinea pigs," as he called them, were killed.

Today, only about 20 of Mengele's twins are still alive; several will be joining the June pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Some are shown on the following pages in photographs taken both today and at the time of their liberation. All the twins—indeed, nearly all the survivors of Auschwitz—realize that Josef Mengele is in some ways the most astonishing survivor of all. Now 70 and hiding from Nazi-hunters in South America, he has been running from justice ever since the Holocaust ended, 36 years ago.

Reporting: David M. Friend

so. Life, June 1981, und.

A 30-YEAR FLIGHT FROM JUSTICE— AND THE HUNT GOES ON



Faces of a Nazi on the run: in Germany (c. 1939); in Buenos Aires; in Eldorado, Argentina; in Asunción, Paraguay.

Incredible as it seems now, Josef Mengele lived a relatively tranquil life just after the war. For some time he successfully palmed himself off as a harmless physician near his family home in Günzburg on the shores of the Danube. But since 1949, when he became fearful of being brought to trial for mass war crimes, Mengele's travels and close escapes could have been lifted from a James Bond movie; indeed, in a recent film, Gregory Peck portrayed Mengele as the model Nazi-on-the-lam. The following report includes the freshest information about Mengele's continuing flight.

Mengele first fled Germany through a Nazi escape network. Hidden in a monastery in Rome's Via Sicilia, supplied with false papers in Spain, he entered Argentina in 1951. In the 30 years since, undercover teams from Israel, Germany, and the U.S. have doggedly if fruitlessly tracked him through the jungle hinterlands of South America, in and out of Europe and possibly even to the United States. Their efforts, however, have been repeatedly thwarted since Mengele has lived mostly in the company of other former Nazis in Latin America who are joined in a mutual protection society they call "Spider," which is financed by drug smuggling and extortion.

Argentina and Paraguay proved safe havens for Mengele until 1960, when he just managed to elude a sting staged in Buenos Aires by agents of Mossad, Israel's intelligence arm. (On that foray they captured the Gestapo's Adolf Eichmann instead.) For the next decade, Mengele shuttled between Paraguayan cities, from which he made frequent journeys to Italy, Spain, Greece and Egypt, meeting with his wife in Rome and Milan. As he moved around the globe, Mengele left a bloody trail.

In 1961 a pursuer named Nora Eldoc, acting on her own, reportedly made contact with Mengele at a resort in Paraguay, and a series of meetings followed. A beautiful, 46-year-old Jew, Eldoc had been sterilized by Mengele two decades earlier at Auschwitz. Before she could spring her trap on him, however, Mengele discovered her true identity and fled. Her body turned up months later in Brazil. In 1965 ex-Nazi Herbert Cukurs' battered body was found in a car trunk in Uruguay after he bargained to

let members of the Jewish underground into one of Mengele's Argentine retreats.

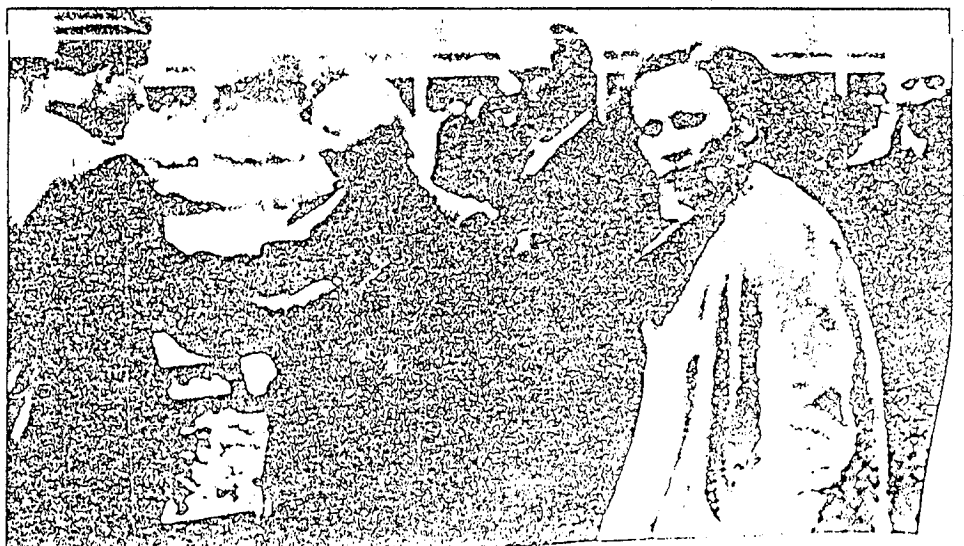
Wherever Mengele has run, his would-be captors have never been far behind. But aided by a team of omnipresent bodyguards, he has slipped through their fingers at least a dozen times. Israeli agents once arrived at Mengele's hotel room in Asunción, Paraguay, only to find that he had skipped town in his pajamas 20 minutes earlier. In recent years, the trail has remained maddeningly warm. In 1978, according to a confidential State Department memorandum, Mengele fled to Brazil. The same year a British TV crew filmed a close associate of Mengele's in Paraguay who boasted, "I see him every four weeks. We have a friendly card game. Everybody knows Mengele is here." Last summer operatives almost shared him again; this time in La Paz, Bolivia. Early this year he was spotted in Uruguay.

The most startling account of Mengele's travels has come from leading members of Paraguay's opposition party, who say that he came to the United States two years ago and lived for a while in a private home in Mount Kisco, N.Y. (About the same time, according to the Justice Department, a reservation on a Miami-bound jet from Latin America was made in Mengele's name.)

Mount Kisco would place him 11 miles from Westwood, N.J., home of a German-run company called KMN Modern Farm Equipment. KMN stands for Krona, Mengele and Niemeyer. The registered agent for its New Jersey operation is Dieter Mengele, nephew of Josef. A spokesman for the U.S. branch denies the firm maintains any contact with the elusive doctor.

Mengele continues to gain notoriety as an almost mythical incarnation of evil. He has been linked to dark deeds as diverse as the alleged genocide of Paraguay's Aché Indians and the torture (in the capacity as adviser) of prisoners at Montevideo's Freedom Prison. "He is no myth," says Auschwitz survivor Alex Dekel, now finishing a book on Mengele, "no bad dream from another time. He is alive and he is free."

The hunt goes on. In recent years Jewish-American businessmen who want him captured have spent \$1 million paying off German expatriate friends of Mengele's in attempts to flush him from his hideaways. Armed with fresh evidence of past atrocities, West Germany issued a new arrest warrant for the doctor last January, and today he has a \$100,000 bounty on his head. "Mengele lives like a hunted animal," says Isser Harel, ex-chief of Israel's Mossad. "This itself is some kind of revenge." ♦



In this rare photograph at the Birkenau railroad ramp, Mengele handpicks victims for the gas chambers.

amendment providing for the MX program that would stop the MX program at missiles in 40 existing silos. Sen. Nunn and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said they expected no vote until Wednesday while the negotiations took place.

The Nunn amendment would not bar further deployment if a way for basing the MX could be found other than placing them in vulnerable silos that can be precision targeted by the Soviet Union.

President Reagan, however, has not shown an interest in a new basing mode, while yesterday his

administration was expected to bring the fiscal 1986 defense authorization bill before the Senate contains \$2 billion for a third installment of 21 missiles to be deployed. The administration wants to build 223 missiles, installing 100 in the silos.

Both Sen. Nunn and Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, chided the White House for its late interest and pointed out that Sen. Nunn's proposal has been in the works since March, when the Senate voted 55-45 to keep the program

Investigators get new lead on location of Mengele

By John McCaslin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

West German and Luxembourg investigators yesterday paid a surprise visit to the Luxembourg office of a Texas businesswoman and confiscated a photograph taken of her alongside a man officials believe could be Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele, The Washington Times has learned.

In a telephone interview yesterday from Luxembourg, the Texas resident, who asked that she remain unidentified, said she was "upset and surprised" by the sudden and unannounced visit, which she thinks could have been set up through information supplied to authorities by Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

The woman, who reportedly owns a water purification business that takes her around the world, told The Washington Times yesterday that the entire episode began after she glanced through a recent issue of Time Magazine and saw a published photograph of Mengele. She thought he resembled a person she visited with last year while on a business trip to South America.

"I realized the man in the picture appeared to be the same person I'd been with" in South America, she said, unwilling to reveal in what country the man resided. "I notified my attorney and one other party," she said. One of them, she believes, then made contact with Mr. Wiesenthal.

When confronted by the West German and Luxembourg investigators, she said, "I had no choice but to tell them where I had met this man."

The man who looked like Mengele had tried "on several occasions" to persuade her to transport "several products" he was trying to sell to Saudi Arabia and other countries, she said. She refused to identify the products.

The German death-camp doctor would be 74 if still alive today.

She also would not give any details surrounding Mr. Wiesenthal's possible involvement in the case, other than the statement that "he knows" about her dealings with the man thought to be Mengele.

A close friend of the woman, speaking yesterday from his Chicago-area home, said the woman's business associates in Luxembourg who witnessed the arrival of the authorities "thought she had been kidnapped."

"She disappeared for awhile," the friend said.

The friend described the businesswoman as a "very straight, honest person."

A spokesman for Mr. Wiesenthal in Los Angeles said yesterday she was unfamiliar with the Luxembourg case.

In an interview with the New York Times last week from his Vienna office, Mr. Wiesenthal claimed that Mengele was sighted in Paraguay, in the settlement of Capitan Miranda, outside Hohenau, as late as last July. He based his speculation on accounts supplied by three unidentified people who do not know one another and who live in different countries.

Mr. Wiesenthal informed West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the three separate accounts, to prepare the chancellor for his meeting in July with Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, the Paraguayan leader.

Doubts on Mengele's Time in Paraguay

To the Editor:

On ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" on Feb. 17, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato and others stated they had information that the Nazi torturer Dr. Josef Mengele entered Paraguay in 1959, that he acquired citizenship soon afterward and moved freely about. It was further asserted that Paraguayans are still afraid to talk about Mengele because of the country's dictatorship.

On Dec. 1, 1959, I took up duties at the United States Embassy in Paraguay as a political officer, and for four years and two months, through changes in ambassadors and chargés d'affaires, I held that position, often for months at a time as acting chief of the embassy's political section.

Throughout those years, there were constant rumors that Martin Bormann, Hitler's vice führer, was in Paraguay, but never a mention of Mengele. The half-Russian stepdaughter of a West German second secretary assured me that the very bedroom she occupied in her stepfather's house had been used as a bed-

room by Bormann. Strangers came to me with tales of Bormann.

The Minister of the Interior, ~~Edgar Insfran~~, who controlled security forces, volunteered to me in confidence that he believed Bormann left Europe at the end of World War II on a Vatican passport and was then in Paraguay. He promised to give me further information. He never did, and I asked him several times about it. He finally replied he had been mistaken.

Despite the dictatorship, Paraguay, whose capital then had only 130,000 inhabitants, did not keep secrets. Almost anybody who had indoor plumbing knew everybody else who did.

It is conceivable that Mengele was there and people thought it was Bormann, but I strongly doubt either was there between Dec. 1, 1959 and Jan. 25, 1964, when I had the responsibility of knowing and reporting to Washington all political matters of interest to the U.S.

A. DANE BOWEN JR.

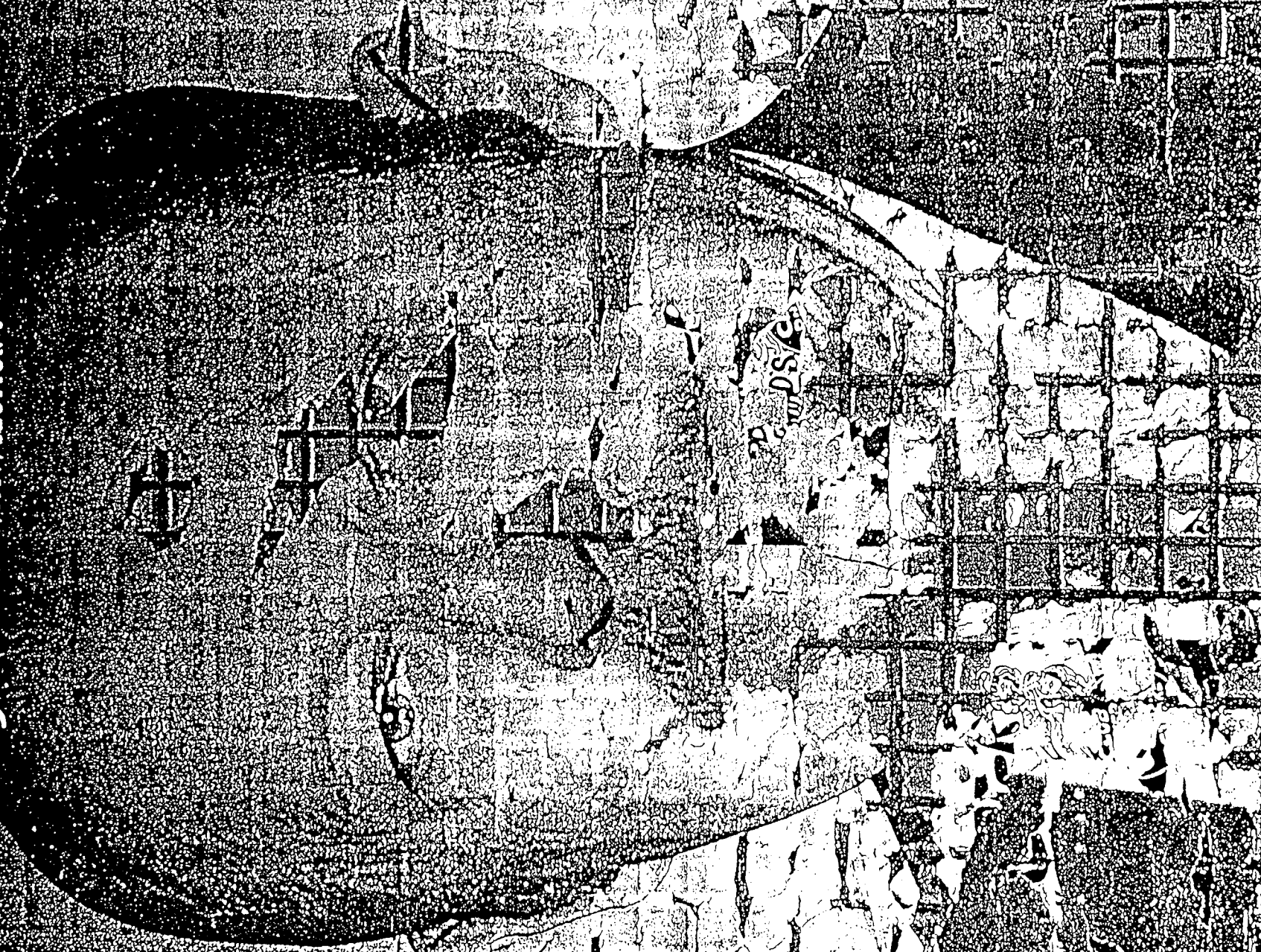
Lock Haven, Pa., Feb. 19, 1985

The writer is professor of history and economics at Lock Haven University.

NEW YORK TIMES
27 FEB 85

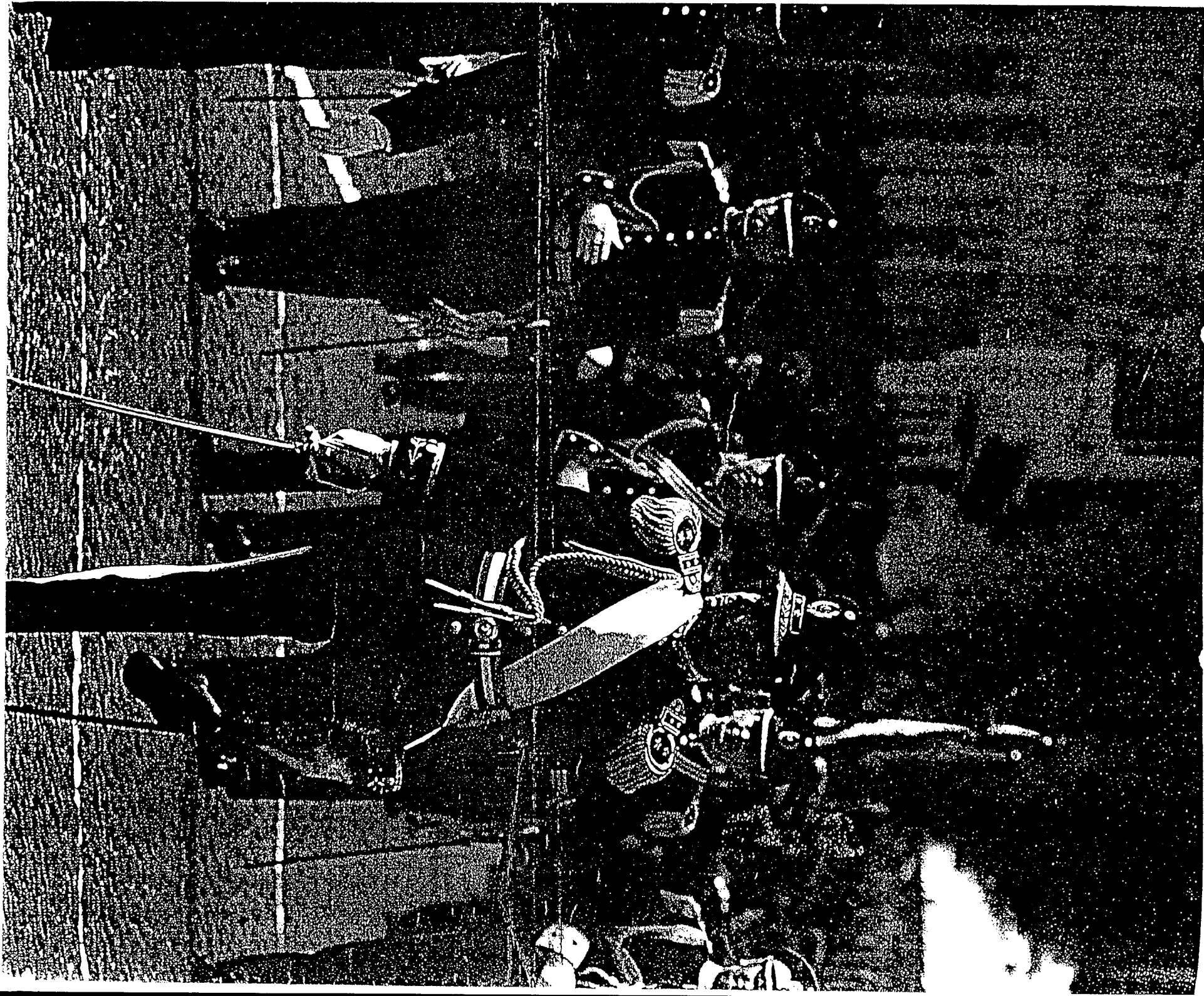
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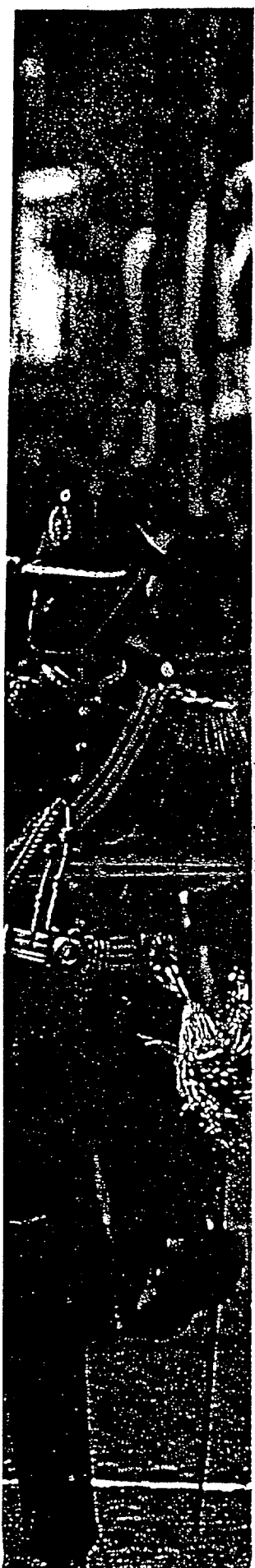
SEPTEMBER 23, 1984 / SECTION 6



NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

A BATTLE OF THE





Left: Gen. Alfredo Stroessner's 30th anniversary as ruler of Paraguay was marked by a parade, through the streets of Asunción, that included the goose-stepping military.

Right: Stroessner salutes his troops

The New York Times Magazine / SEPTEMBER 23, 1984

A REPUBLIC OF FEAR

Thirty Years of General Stroessner's Paraguay

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

By John Vinocur

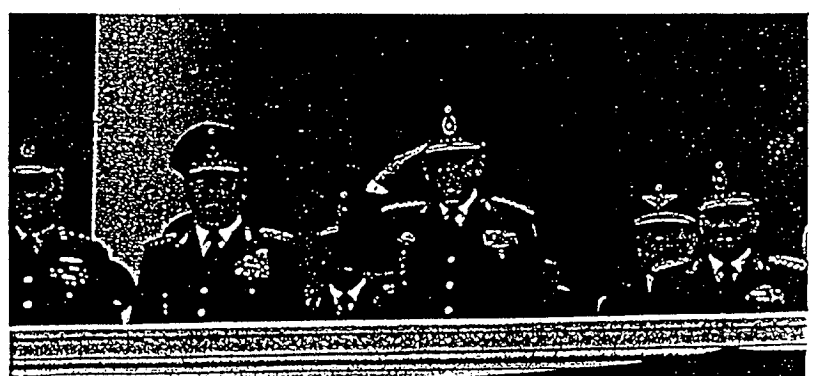
PARAGUAY WORKS like this: A man parks his car, and to keep it from being stolen, he attaches it to a rope tied around his waist. The man is arrested walking through the streets, and charged with public ridiculousness. He has insulted national dignity, which, officially, has been restored and exalted over the last 30 years by El Excelentísimo, the President of the Republic, Don Alfredo Stroessner, General of the Army, First Magistrate of the land. Beaten, robbed, demeaned, the man eventually bribes his way out of jail. He finds his automobile on a used car lot, and informs the dealer. "That's a break for you," the dealer says. "You know the real mileage."

Paraguay lives with its legends of total villainy and near-complete resignation, and it tells about them in stories and dreams and truths. Some-

times they are visions of General Stroessner going into retirement at a ranch, sitting in a rocker beside Dr. Josef Mengele down by Lake Itaipú and offering newts and baby chicks to the piranhas. Sometimes they are accounts like the one given by a businessman to a visitor about a client's housekeeper who had her fingernails yanked out recently by the police. "Some kind of petty theft," he says. The tone of voice is a shrug, parlor revulsion. Things could be worse, it suggests. There are worse places than Paraguay.

Thirty years of General Stroessner: a continual state of siege over the entire period that literally places the President above the law; people with occasionally uncontrollable urges to fall into rivers or jump from planes with their arms and legs bound; serenades in front of the presidential palace featuring the ever-popular "Forward, My General" and "Congratula-

John Vinocur, chief of The Times's Paris bureau, visited Paraguay last month.



ES NACHWEY/BLACK STAR



Left: For Carmen Lara Castro, a human-rights leader, indifference and fear plague her country. She says her entire family has been tortured, exiled or imprisoned.



One of the few effective voices questioning Stroessner is the Roman Catholic Church. Says Bishop Melanio Medina, above: "The country has been impoverished in the worst sense — in its humanity."

Right: With Asunción in the background, a mother and child collect water in one of the few remaining slum areas outside the city, modernized during a decade of prosperity.

tions, My Great Friend"; foreign thieves, brutes and madmen hidden at a price; an economy administered so corruptly it is officially explained away as the "cost of peace"; a United Nations voting record on so-called key issues more favorable to the United States than any other "ally"; a party newspaper that prints six front-page color pictures of the general every day.

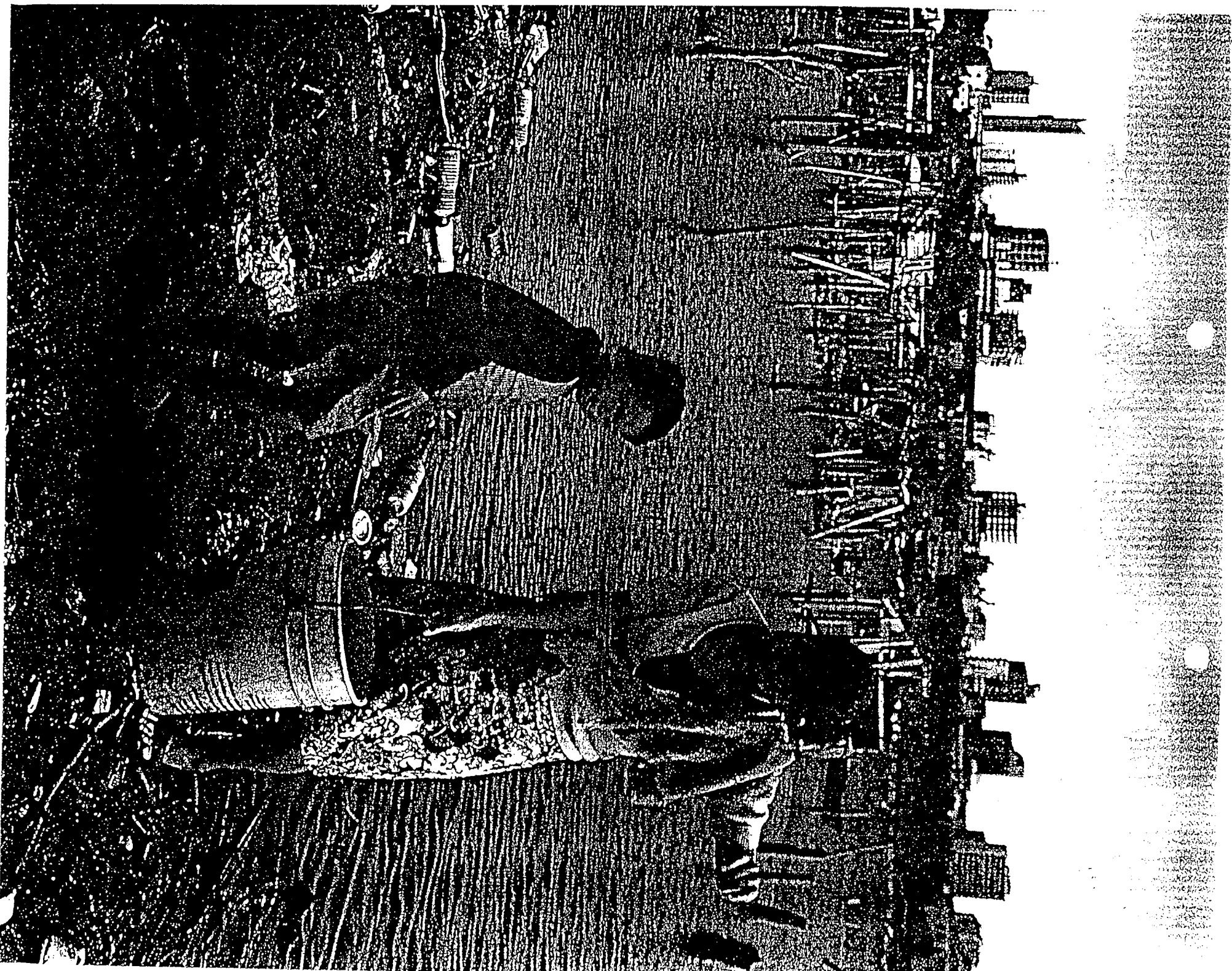
The Paraguay of President Stroessner is tragic, in the sense that most of Paraguay's people have learned to respond to rule-by-whim with the consistent reasonableness of silence. It is comic in its frequent disorganization and incoherence, its loony juxtapositions and its operetta gold braid. The radio station of the Colorado Party, the general's own, raves about another local broadcaster, calling him a "subversive Jewish Castro," but seven Israeli technicians provide maintenance in Asunción for the Boeing 707's of the state airline.

American banks rushed to open operations in Asunción in the mid-

1970's, sensing the easy money of a Wild West hydroelectric boom, but suddenly found they couldn't collect their debts in a country that is to while-you-wait bankruptcy proceedings what Delaware is to instant incorporation papers. Justice is a two-foot-high statue of a naked woman holding a scale, dwarfed by a new, Mussolini-modern Supreme Court building funded by the Republic of South Africa. A play is announced, then canceled; the costumes and sets have disappeared. A European country donates three trucks to Paraguay's forest service. They arrive in port but don't leave the docks. Finally, after a year, the embassy understands: Customs officials must be bribed to get the gifts into the country.

But Paraguay is not a buffoon state, and President Stroessner is no Papa Doc or Idi Amin, men ruling in a flood of the irrational. Those few Paraguayans who openly oppose the President call him extraordinarily shrewd, a master at raising and lowering the level of violence and corruption in the







Left: Col. Alejandro von Ecksteln, according to a document, was a witness for the citizenship papers of the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele. For the right price, Paraguay has been a haven for an assortment of foreigners on the run.

Public criticism of the general is barely tolerated. Humberto Rubin, below, had his radio station shut down after he discussed corruption in the courts. He says he's been in jail 10 times.

country like the heat on a gas stove. No one holds power anywhere for 30 years without acquiring a sense of relative measure. The bodies don't float down the Paraguay River the way they did 20 years ago; torture is real but no longer systematic; the number of political prisoners has diminished, and Dr. Mengele, the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz, is believed to have disappeared within the last four or five years — either after plastic surgery or, as a former American Ambassador, Robert E. White, put it, "paid back, finally, in his own coin."

While democratic change is coming to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, Paraguay remains frightening because its regime proves that evil is not always needed in job lots to cow a people or appropriate a state. Compared with General Stroessner, President Somoza of Nicaragua was an apprentice, says Aldo Zucolillo, the publisher of a newspaper, ABC Color, put out of business this year by the general.

Mr. Zucolillo and a few other Paraguayans are rare men and women: They talk on the record in a place where almost nothing is verifiable and the only certainty is the efficiency of the police. Another man, no less admirable but not at ease about his name appearing in print, observes that in a historical perspective, General Stroessner's Paraguay probably

contours of a situation they think might be changing. When the army goose-stepped through the streets of Asunción on Aug. 15, the 30th anniversary of General Stroessner's rise to the presidency, the question for those watching was, "How much longer?" After the Trujillos and Somozas, General Stroessner, at 71, is almost the last of a breed of Latin American dictators who, unlike Fidel Castro or Gen. Augusto Pinochet of Chile, admitted to running their country as if it were a theme park in their own image.

For longevity, the general has few rivals; only Enver Hoxha of Albania and Kim Il Sung of North Korea are his seniors. For personalization of power, Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania has some of the same reflexes, but he has yet to name an airport after himself, or a city (Puerto Presidente Stroessner), or to put a neon sign atop a building like the one at the Plaza of Heroes in Asunción that blinks orange through the night: "Stroessner — Peace, Work, Well-being . . . Stroessner — Peace, Work, Well-being . . ."

In a strange way, President Stroessner has claimed an area of absurdity that none of his peers thought to expropriate. For the general, a man who can arrest, imprison or banish anyone he pleases without trial or explanation under the capital's permanent state of siege, Paraguay has achieved perfect peace and democracy. It is, by self-acclamation, "the

a vague year of two of its entire history, the s inspire as much fear as

THE GENERAL GE up at 5 A.M. Sin Somoza's assassination in Paraguay, 1980, after his oust from his own country the year before, one is sure where the general spends the night, but his office residence, part of

compound with a police hospital, the grounds (torture victims are said to be taken to a fifth-floor ward for attempts at reanimation), sits in a ward proximity to the United States Embassy, directly across the street.

The general's day begins with telephone calls, and it is said that, between 6 A.M. and 7 A.M., a ring on one of the 82,000 phones in a country just over 3 million people is automatically answered, "Sí, Señor Presidente." Visitors parade through the office starting at 7 A.M. By 8 P.M. it is clear who came, because the vis lead the newscasts on the two television channels. It may be the Chile Ambassador or the South African military attaché, but more often the parade is an exercise in trying to be respectable, scooping up whoever passing through town. In mid-August the nightly news led off with President Stroessner extending his hand



General Stroessner closed down the newspaper of Aldo Zucolillo, far right, after the publisher questioned his authority.

will be more interesting in its perverse nuances than in the mass of its outrages.

"Add up the horrors," he says, "and you get a substantial piece of ugly business. But what is interesting, really — original, you could say — is how after 30 years a place can be run through a perfect distillation of fear. By now, it's only a touch, a nod. One man disappears, one woman is tortured. It is enough, and the Stroessner people know it. It's a horrible truth, but some of us wait nervously to hear such stories. And too many of us are relieved to hear them, because then we touch the bars of the cage, and we know where we stand."

These are wary days in Paraguay.



United States' best friend. The word "democracy" soils every official sheet of paper, every state proclamation, hundreds of pages daily in the official press. Even General Pinochet talks about an eventual return to parliamentary rule; even Mr. Castro says his "Socialism" aspires to achieving a more faultless Communist existence. But in Paraguay, General Stroessner has elevated himself to the level of democracy apotheosized.

For the people who reach out to touch the bars of the cage, all signals count. They look at the general and see his passive stare, his stiffened movements, his hands swollen to lobster claws, as signs of time passing of

a visiting veterinarian, describe the chief of the department of animal insemination at a cow college in West Germany.

Then the general visits things opens banks, he hands out diplomas he inaugurates telephone booths is conscious of his image. As an pointed out, he never cuts ribbon Paraguayan red, white and blue unknots them — a man who cares

The rest of the day, from noon (more opaque. No one can remember the general ever holding a press conference, and interviews are rare request for an interview for this cle never received an official sponse.) Some of those whose job involve watching the general, and

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After Paraguay gained independence in 1811, José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia became the nation's ruler "for life."

operates on a kind of automatic pilot, believe he sleeps much of the day. For a group convinced of his mental acuity, the general's afternoon is the stuff of novels: plotting, and counting money. For the Paraguayan people, who mostly work hard and shut up, the nontelevised doings at the presidential palace represent pure intrigue. A foreign diplomat's young son was told by the family cook that afternoon is the time when "the old German doctor comes and gives the general injections of fresh blood."

In a sense, General Stroessner is no historical accident. After independence in 1811, Paraguay's first ruler was a dictator "for life" — José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, known as El Supremo, who banned all travel, foreign trade, entry or exit, meetings and mail. Despots of varying compulsions succeeded him. Paraguay became the first country in South America to have a railroad, but it also found itself with a ruler in Francisco Solano López who in 1864 devised a way to start a war against Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay at the same time. When the war was over, the Paraguayan population of 550,000 was 60 percent dead.

Both El Supremo and Marshal Lopez are national heroes, perhaps understandably, if you count the 22 presidents, several civil wars and endless coups from 1904 to 1936. In the 1930's, a lunatic war with Bolivia over the Chaco desert — land with

none or little of the oil the two parties hoped was there — ended with 100,000 more deaths. By 1947, another civil war was on, and by late 1949 six presidents had come and gone over a period of 16 months. In 1954, it was the turn of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, son of a German immigrant from Bavaria and a Paraguayan mother, to stage a military coup.

The general's staying power has been based on controlling the military and turning the Colorado Party, traditionally an amalgam of peasants and shopkeepers, into an unusually effective grassroots organization. Each little town has its Colorado "section," a dispenser of jobs and favors and a collector of local intelligence; neither the block committees of the Sandinistas nor the factory councils of East Germany ever worked more effectively.

Party membership is usually a precondition for becoming a grade-school teacher or being appointed as a soldier or officer in the Presidential Escort Battalion. The military's loyalty is assured by cutting generals and colonels into the so-called illegal economy — contraband, kickbacks, pure theft — that even newspapers allied to the Government say represents about half the gross national product. Generals whose nominal salary is about \$550 a month can live in a kind of ostentation that goes beyond caricature. Their houses, built on half-paved roads, look like the White House, or




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the Chateau de Chambord, or Viking lodges. The relative prosperity of the last few years has produced a small middle class more interested in possessions than in politics.

General Stroessner's enormous good luck, in a sense, was to come to power in a country so devastated, so miserable that the capital had no running water in 1954, and the country had only minimal electrification. Over the years, he has had the astuteness to turn every light bulb into an enterprise that sounds like the Gen. Don Alfredo Stroessner Citizens Illumination Project, every drain pipe into the splendor of a National Hygiene Consortium, Don Alfredo Stroessner, President.

The small-town politician's sociological skills — "Stroessner looks like a Bavarian but thinks like a Guarani Indian," says a European ambassador — were accompanied by a fabulous windfall. The construction by Paraguay and Brazil of the Itaipu Dam on the Brazilian border — in Paraguay's case, almost entirely with other people's money — brought Paraguay a clear \$1.8 billion in revenue from 1975 to 1983. The hydroelectric project, described as the world's biggest, gave Paraguay, for a while, the fastest growth in the hemisphere. The money, and its dribble-down effects on the population, modulated the need to brutalize.

After decades of terror sent about a million Paraguayans out of the country, the rush of cash purchased a kind of national docility, and allowed an occasional slackening of the whip hand. Last year, when the Government broke up the Paraguayan Data Bank, a group trying to furnish statistics to contrast with the regime's own on national wealth and its pathetic distribution, only two of the 30 people arrested complained of being tortured. "By local historical standards, an enlightened percentage," a diplomat said. This summer, a businessman told of two Paraguayans being arrested when they bumbled into a police shake-down scheme. Naked, they were made to kneel and stare at a white-painted wall for nine hours. If they tried to move or close their eyes, they were beaten. "Not the real hard stuff," according to the businessman.

The Minister of the Interior, Sabino Montanaro, who has been excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church for intolerable abuses over

the years (and who, more recently, has been restored to the faith), mumbles something about subversives when the torture question comes up. In an interview, he says, "We are against all harassment."

Don Alfredo does not enjoy such unpleasant subjects. The foreigners who see him regularly are of two schools. One of them reports that he is incapable of answering precise questions, and that his conversation runs to reminiscences from the Chaco War and ramblings about communism, subversives, do-gooders and being unappreciated. These visitors regard him as in clear decline; he is old, they say, sometimes clear enough in the head to cancel someone's permit to import a Volkswagen or a salami slicer, but gradually fossilizing, the last of the South American dinosaurs turning slowly to stone. The other school insists that the general is all there when he needs to be. One frequent visitor, a bit of an archivist, has compiled a small folio of Stroessnerisms delivered before dawn:

"Even Carter thought I was doing a good job. He was a fool, he destroyed people's faith in America. I am one of America's best friends, but the United States treats their enemies better than their friends."

"Pinochet is a failure. He never created an organization, a type of democracy that would give people a sense of participation."

"Somoza was arrogant. A boozier."

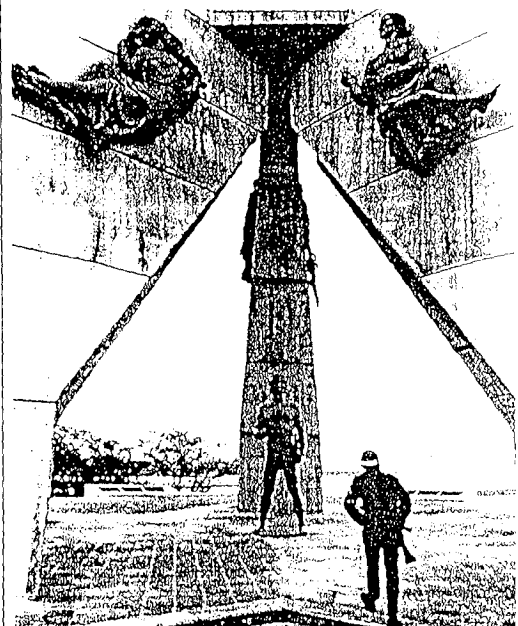
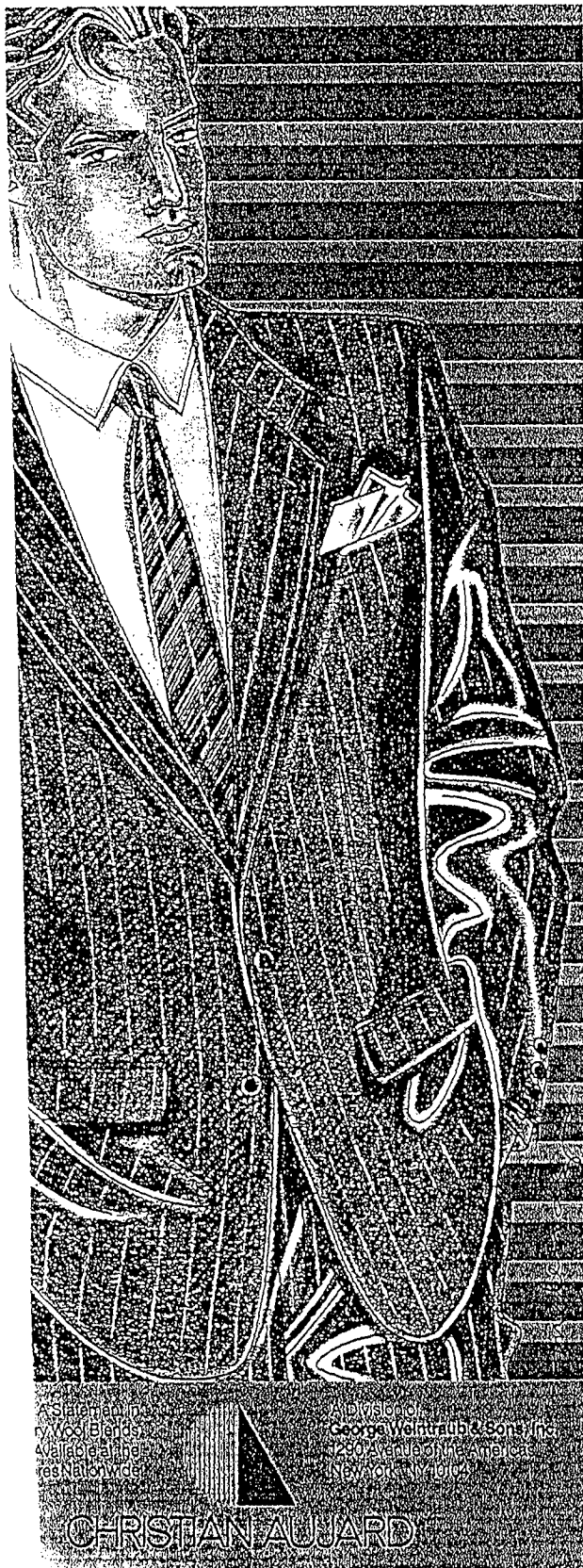
"I can understand why Reagan would not want to see me. It wouldn't be good for him politically."

"No one starves here."

"Some countries — the real people — are not politically mature enough to sustain a United States type of democracy. Paraguay is one."

"I am no dictator."

ASUNCION IS A POKY place that actually smells of orange blossoms. By South American standards, it is short on the dismal and the desperate: A couple of kids sleep on the sidewalk; a barefoot boy sells papers in the nasty rain of the austral winter. In truth, Asunción largely escapes the assault of endless, gagging misery. On Saturday nights, what there is of the new middle class stakes out *parrilladas* (grill restaurants) in Miami-bought leisure suits to eat and stare. If you listen hard, you can still hear men playing the



In Asunción, the Monumento de Cerro Lambaré honors four heroes of Paraguay. One of them is Gen. Alfredo Stroessner.

harp and guitar duets that are Paraguay's sweet, sad folk music.

The appearances are inuring. A representative of a far-away little country with a passionate, even manic democratic system, said he rather liked living here: He can drink the water, he can eat the lettuce, and he says his daughter can walk the streets at 11 P.M. That is not entirely certain — after attempted attacks on women staff members, the United States Embassy instituted a nightly security patrol for its families this year. In any case, Paraguayans are often appalled by some foreigners' readiness to take quiet for calm, stillness for an absence of violence, in a city where soldiers point guns at children when they approach a general's house.

The West German Embassy, which spends a lot of its time trying to extradite German thugs and deadbeats who regard Paraguay as a kind of enormous safe house, got the mood understatedly right in a sheet of travel tips made available to those passing through: "All restaurants close at 1 A.M. It is advisable at that point to leave the streets. The police has far-reaching powers and, as a rule, does not hesitate to employ them extensively. It is urgently emphasized not to become involved in discussions with the police or other authorities. Foreigners

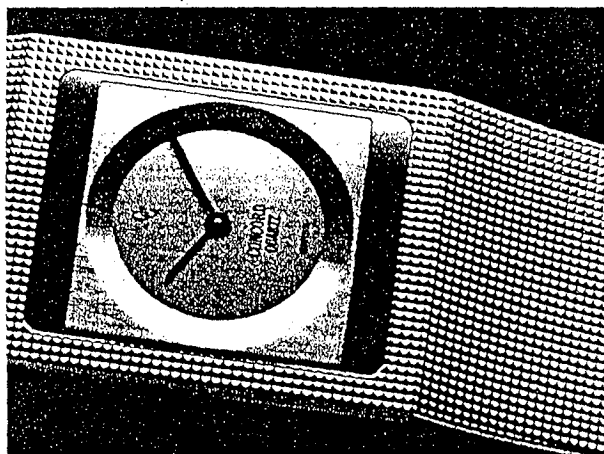
should avoid commenting on Paraguayan politics. Subsequent difficulties are easily encountered as a result of the efficient information police system . . . Visitors who are arrested should request that the Embassy be informed."

Since everything has its price — \$200 for a permanent residency permit, \$200 for citizenship, maybe \$700 for a passport — no one need tarry in jail too long. Unless, of course, the military feels crossed in some deal, and, like a poor German named Gandermann this summer, you wind up in a brig in the Chaco beyond even the shrugging impotency of the courts. Laws are written down, but *mbarate*, a Guarani word meaning clout, runs everything. Two confused tax collectors who inexplicably ventured into a business run by Gen. Andrés Rodríguez, commander of the Asunción military region and one of the country's richest generals — besides having a son married to one of the President's daughters — got a summary definition of *mbarate*: They were beaten, had their heads shaved and were thrown into the street, an American said.

Attempts at moving in wide arcs around the violence-corruption-military complex do little good; in Paraguay, there are more police per capita than in Bulgaria, East Germany or South Africa. Paul H. Lewis, professor of

(Continued on Page 36)

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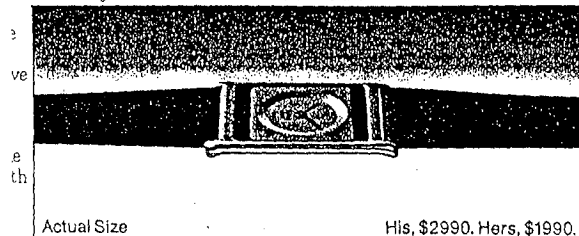


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PARAGUAY

Continued from Page 32

political science at Tulane University, who compiled the statistics, gives General Stroessner his due, though. According to his figures, the proportion of police to Paraguay's population falls behind the comparable ratio in Qaddafi's Libya and Hoxha's Albania.

Corruption, like brutality, is discussed with a flip, next-case matter-of-factness. A diplomat tells of a Cabinet minister asking for a \$2 million slice of a \$12 million contract. A banker explains that he must kick back 100 guaranis per dollar to employees in the Central Bank in order to export dollars at a rate of about 240 to one, roughly half that of the unofficial parallel market. A foreigner tells of the construction of a cement plant with a yearly production capacity of 650,000 tons, when the country uses only 200,000 tons; the size of the deal, he explains, increases the amount of cream at the top for the bosses. A private Panamanian barge company wins a contract in dollars to transport oil from Buenos Aires in competition with a Government-owned Paraguayan firm which accepts payment in guaranis. According to banking sources, a small group of friends and officials knew of a planned devaluation two weeks before it took place, and got richer on the foreign exchange market.

The Colorado Party talks about land reform and providing farming plots to 300,000 peasants, but the best land goes into the *estancias* of the generals and colonels, or into the agribusiness. By American reckoning, almost three-fourths of the usable farming and ranch land is occupied by 3 percent of the country's farms and ranches. On a standard scale used by one embassy to measure land distribution — placing egalitarian perfection at 0 and total injustice at 1 — Paraguay scores a .93. "Paraguay is a brothel," a businessman said. "The magnitude, intensity and openness of its corruption is unique. There are days when just about every buck here stinks."

Humberto Rubin, the radio-station owner and broadcaster whose station was shut down for discussing corruption in the courts and in land reform, talks of "stealing and lying, shameless beyond be-

lief." "Can you understand," he asks, "what this has done to the dignity, to the self-respect of a people?"

Mr. Rubin, a man of unusual courage, stops there. General Stroessner and his friends have left Paraguay with the tears and passivity of a battered child.

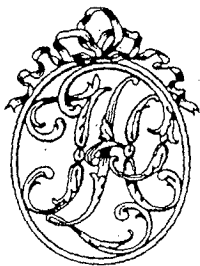
IN GRAHAM GREENE'S "Travels With My Aunt," Aunt Augusta, on a visit to Paraguay, meets a wretch named Mr. Visconti who has lost all his money trying to buy a new passport and bribing the police. She finds him sad. "God knows how Dr. Mengele manages," Aunt Augusta says, "but I expect he has a numbered account in Switzerland."

Dr. Mengele was here indeed, paying off his Paraguayan citizenship papers for 20 or 25 years. The papers, according to a published document, were witnessed by Col. Alejandro von Eckstein, a Paraguayan in his 70's, with a European accent, who, diplomats say, was given an "honorary" officer's commission by General Stroessner and is often seen in the presidential antechambers. The Israelis, who have an embassy in Asunción, and a sufficiently equivocal relationship with Paraguay to try to sell the army mobile desalination equipment, think that Mengele is dead or gone; the Americans are of the same view.

The best indication of Dr. Mengele's departure is a story, told by a foreigner, of how three Paraguayan colonels reacted when Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief of Lyons, was extradited by Bolivia to France in 1983 — in exchange, it has been said, for shipping French weapons to the Bolivian police. "Maybe we could pass von Eckstein off as Mengele," one of the colonels is supposed to have said. "What do you think he is worth — \$200,000?"

Paraguay reacts with operatic outrage when Mengele's name is mentioned. Last month, the official party newspaper, *La Patria*, produced an editorial, printed on specially tinted yellow paper, denouncing what it called "Mengele-Wiezenthal and Co., Inc." The argument, complete with its derogatory misspelling of Simon Wiesenthal's name, was that the redoubtable Nazi

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hunter was interested solely in making money and defaming Paraguay. This is just another turn in the Paraguayan tragic-comedy, since the country has always been a haven for right-wing extremists, or just embezzlers, swindlers and con men on the run. The acknowledged list now includes Georges Watin, who once tried to kill Charles de Gaulle; Gaetano Orlando, an Italian neo-Fascist whose extradition on criminal charges was rejected, and Auguste Ricord, the French-born international drug dealer who returned to Paraguay after being released from an American prison last year.

The general expectation of people like these — many of them Germans attracted by the fact that about a tenth of Paraguay's population has some German background — is that compassion is available at a price. Some find it. Some do not: German sources tell of a German dental-supply salesman who arrived recently with suitcases containing 110 kilograms of gold, which he had accumulated by faking orders from his clients. First the suitcases disappeared, then the salesman.

Among those alighting in Asunción during the last few years was Hans Hermann Weyer, a West German who had specialized at home in selling phony titles to used-car dealers hungry for respectability. In Paraguay, which ignored three extradition requests for him on fraud charges, Mr. Weyer concentrated on real-estate deeds and drivers' licenses — both reputedly of his own design. Then he moved on.

Like movie listings, the newspapers save space for extradition news. One day it's a couple of embezzling Argentine bankers; another day it's a phony Spanish priest. The local rule is that when you can't pay, you go. Two Americans, Richard Cochran and Janet Krebs, wanted for robbing a Nevada bank, found this out in August. Their arrest was announced, and a newspaper story followed, saying that about \$900,000 had been seized at the same time. Then another report appeared, saying the take was really more than \$1 million, plus jewelry. A third story, published a few days later, said a lawyer had been arrested and the sum involved was, in fact, \$2.7 million. What happened, a foreign source explained, was that there had been some competitive bidding among police factions on protection fees,

and that the deal had tottered out of control.

Paraguay made the best of it: The money, with great ceremony, was entrusted to the care of the Central Bank, and an extradition request from the United States Embassy for Mr. Cochran and Mrs. Krebs was granted.

GENERAL STROESSNER always makes the best of things, following the rule he has created for himself — buying out or beating up; one generally works as well as the other. His refinement, his special totalitarian discovery, is that if you destroy a people's honor long enough, many will think of themselves as beyond repair.

In a green-walled classroom of Asunción's Catholic University, I talked to a group of students. They spoke of themselves in an odd, jarring language for young people, one of enormous self-contempt. Again and again the comments were despairing, self-lacerating:

"I'm not hopeful. If he dies, it can get worse. He keeps a balance."

"There is no political option. The young people are rotten. There are no moral values. When he goes, it's more of the same."

"You don't change anything. Maybe through violence, maybe through a revolution, but the people are passive."

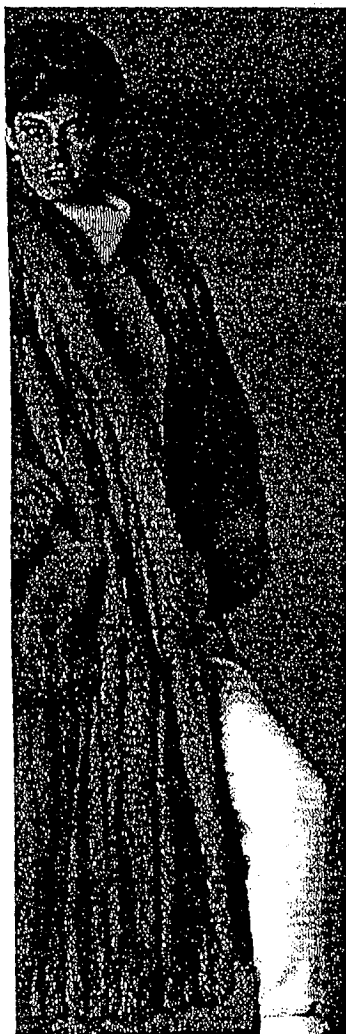
"We hate him."

"Our desire is to become a real democracy, but this is so hard. We must be cautious."

Carmen Lara Castro, president of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission and a woman whose entire family has been jailed, tortured or exiled, describes the essential characteristics of Paraguayan life as indifference and fear. The opposition parties, she says, are largely to blame for their feebleness. "They have been irresponsible and petty, wasting themselves in their own endless infighting."

The truth is, the opposition, allowed to function within the parameters of rigged elections to a sham parliament and the Colorado Party's system of surveillance and patronage, does not come to much, and when it cannot be bought, it is beaten. ABC Color, the newspaper that edged closest to questioning the President's authority and methods, was shut down this spring. Mr. Rubin, the radio broadcaster, says he has been in and out of jail 10 times.

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Pe...s to control them better, a group of Colorado Party dissidents known as Mopocos were allowed to return from exile — and were led into a trap of severe restraints and total surveillance. Communism is forbidden, but so is the Christian Democratic Party, its leader banished. Anyone can found a new political organization: All that is needed are 10,000 signatures, a notion as inconceivable as the Supreme Court abridging General Stroessner's state-of-siege powers.

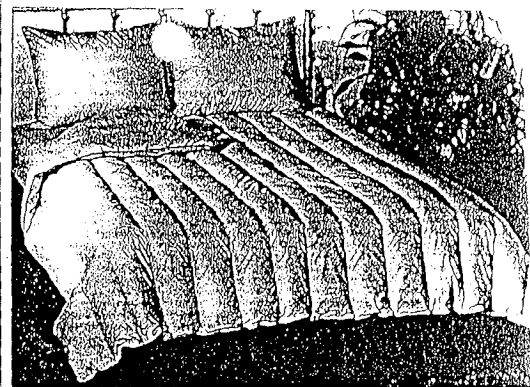
The most effective counterforce in Paraguay is the Roman Catholic Church, whose newspaper, Sendero (Path), is essentially the only self-respecting reading material in the country now. The Archbishop of Asunción, Ismael Rolón, has sent letters to the semi-official press complaining of the scarcity of truth in their columns, but the letters are not published. Perhaps the most courageous of the churchmen is Bishop Melanio Medina of the town of Benjamin Aceval, a couple of stores and a sugar refinery about an hour's drive away from the capital and into the Chaco region. For La Patria, the Colorado Party newspaper, Monsignor Medina is the "Red Bishop." The monsignor replies to the taunt with a smile of middling contempt, but he talks about Paraguay with the same sadness as the young people:

"The dictatorship has succeeded in domesticating us. Fear is pervasive. Youth has no ambition for political life. If you think, you come under pressure. If you don't think, you have no problems. No real dissident could survive. The country has been impoverished in the worst, most essential sense — in its humanity."

Monsignor Medina says the "Red Bishop" jibe is the Government's pathetic response to his sermons on human rights and injustice. "The anti-Communism of the regime is ridiculous, a facade to protect their own interests. The disrespect for the individual; the informers; the police — in these ways we are like the Communists, not very far from them at all."

It may be a unique case in Latin America, but, within the opposition, the United States is not the focus of blame. Brazil, the essential source of Paraguayan money and arms, is often described as Paraguay's colonial warder. Argentina, once again a democracy, gets criticized for not matching its promises

(Continued on Page 93)



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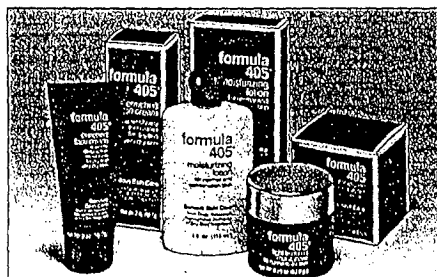


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PARAGUAY

Continued from Page 40

as a critic of oppression, and for sending, instead, its Cabinet ministers to pose with General Stroessner's friends for the signature of a hydroelectric project. Compared to Argentines and Brazilians, who have the alleged arrogance of big brothers — and money invested in Paraguayan agriculture, light industry and utilities — Americans seem somehow vague.

A century ago, President Rutherford B. Hayes decided in Paraguay's favor in an international arbitration, and since then, America's errors or disinterest or negligence vis-à-vis Paraguay are treated with eerie semi-indulgence. The opposition says the United States could do more to exert pressure: withdraw its ambassador, block internationally funded loans to the general's regime, howl in public about 30 years of Stroessnerism. American assistance to Paraguay, which totaled \$187 million in technical and economic aid from 1942 to 1984, comes to about \$190,000 this year. With an average annual income of more than \$1,000, Paraguay, like Brazil, Colombia or Mexico, is regarded as being out of the league of desperate poverty, and assistance from the United States Agency for International Development is being terminated. Washington still maintains an Office of Defense Cooperation in Asunción, with a \$50,000 annual budget for sending a handful of officers to United States Army training schools; others occasionally join in American-led command exercises.

These days, the United States does not offer General Stroessner either guns or much money, or even photo opportunities. On the other hand, with the exception of a complaint when ABC Color was closed, and the absence of an American honor guard from this year's big parades in Asunción, the Administration does little to oppose General Stroessner, even symbolically. None of the difficulties thrown up for General Pinochet's Chile are carried over to Paraguay; the United States turns its head when money for the country is discussed at the Inter-American Development Bank or the International Monetary Fund.

The current Ambassador is Arthur H. Davis Jr., a Colorado shopping-center devel-

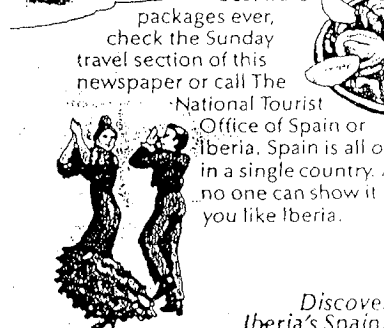
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oper described as a friend of the brewer Joseph Coors, one of the major backers of President Reagan's campaign. Coming after Robert White, the Ambassador for two years of the Carter Administration, who nagged and nudged Paraguay into releasing hundreds of political prisoners, Mr. Davis was greeted like a long-lost friend. He turned out to be rather more interested in human-rights violations than the general or his friends would have liked. Although it was not the Ambassador's fault, a gaffe by the State Department was probably the most significant American action in relation to Paraguay this year. Somehow, a departmental docu-

ment included a reference to the Mopocos — a breakaway faction of the Colorado Party — as having possible terrorist links. The information was wrong, the United States Embassy acknowledged in an open letter. But the Paraguayan Government, insisting on the well-known infallibility of the American security services, has used the gaffe to turn the Mopocos into pariahs.

The State Department is more certain of the accuracy of another piece of information, which Paraguayan officials also frequently wave in the air for visitors as the final, transcendental proof of the goodness of the general's life work. On 10 so-called key

issues in the United Nations last year, Paraguay voted with the United States more faithfully than any other country in the world.

"What I keep telling the Americans is that Paraguay is not a case of the regime or the Communists," says Mr. Zucolillo, the ABC Color publisher. "But there must be some political growth here — something. We're stunted. Otherwise, the alternatives when the old man goes are not all good ones."

Although Mr. Zucolillo does not name them, the alternatives are obvious enough. One is a war among the Colorado Party clans and the military factions; a new dictatorship, weaker, more brutal, more

unstable; revenge, trouble, bloodshed. The stuff of revolution. In Paraguay, Mr. Rubin says, "power has never been handed over peacefully."

Rather more sanguine is the reasoning that Brazil and Argentina, with their large investments in the country, would act to prevent any upheaval. Pushed further, the argument contends that since Argentina has already returned to democracy, and Brazil is expected to move away from military rule when an electoral college chooses a new president next January, General Stroessner must take heed of the trend.

Foreigners often talk that way. Paraguayans think that

the years ahead may bring a civilian president, perhaps Luis María Argüa, the chief of the Supreme Court, but that someone in the military is certain to be behind him — perhaps the powerful General Rodríguez, once described by United States narcotics agents as a drug-running ally of Auguste Ricord; perhaps Gen. Gerardo Johanssen, a rather more self-effacing officer, who heads the country's military training institutes. General Stroessner, according to a diplomat, has given General Johanssen the following bit of advice for the years to come: "In this country, don't tell anyone your family is from Denmark. The

(Continued on Page 101)

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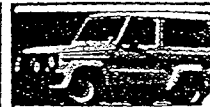
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PARAGUAY

Continued from Page 94

Danes are bakers, bacon makers. From now on, Johannsen, you're German. They're soldiers."

Paraguayans who look closely at the general for signs of slippage; who watch hopefully for an end, and fear an end; who yearn for a new life while dreading the future of a country stripped of political structure and robbed of so much of its pride, say the prognosis is depressing. After Stroessner, more Stroessner.

TO WATCH THE country watch him, I flew into the Paraguayan outback, to a place called Capitán Bado, where the general went to un-knot inaugural ribbons at a post office, a dispensary and, it seemed, anything else that had been built there in the last 10 years. The town's main street, a wide dirt road that looked like a river bed, is the border with Brazil; no customs men, just some soldiers wearing forage caps with chin straps, and a tent show, the "Fantástico Circo Koslov," that could have come straight from "La Strada." I had been told the general was popular in the countryside, and red banners nailed up at a little stand fit right in: "Stroessner, Stroessner is the jubilant cry emerging from our Paraguayan soul," and "Welcome, noble and illustrious chief, governor of the heart of America."

I was given a red Colorado Party bandana, which I was graciously dispensed from, wearing, and a seat in the reviewing stand about three rows behind the general, which made me uncomfortable, thinking of the violent, reviewing-stand end of Anwar el-Sadat. There were some speeches, and then we walked, following the general, through the dirt streets.

There were school kids in white smocks, and little bunches of townspeople. We walked and walked, and there was silence. Past the old men in white shirts, the guys in cowboy hats, the kids with their shoes shined — walking in total silence. Thirty years, and it had come to this! Oh, the stillness!

Finally someone cheered, "Viva Stroessner." It was thin but audible. The general broke ranks, went over, and shook the man's hand. ■

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Al Dr. Josef Mengele

Por sus crímenes contra la humanidad

Josef Mengele fue el responsable por la muerte de 400.000 prisioneros en el campo de concentración de Auschwitz. Fue el autor de atrocidades mediante experimentos médicos sobre sus víctimas.

Mengele, de 74 años de edad, 1.7 m (5'10") de estatura y de ojos pardos verdosos, se hizo ciudadano argentino en 1964 y paraguayo en 1969.

Los recompensas mundialmente ya ascienden a más de US \$2.375.000 por información que conduzca a la detención y extradición del Dr. Josef Mengele.

Dirección: Martín Mendelssohn, Apartado (P.O. Box) 33186, Washington, D.C. 20033, E.E.U.U., o llame al Centro Simon Wiesenthal, (413) 883-9036. Toda información es con carácter confidencial.

RECOMPENSA - U.S. \$2.375.000

Reward poster being distributed in South America by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles for information leading to the arrest of Josef Mengele, who was sighted last summer in Capitán Miranda, Paraguay.

Wiesenthal Cites Mengele Sighting

By HENRY KAMM
Special to The New York Times

VIENNA, May 14 — Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter, says that Josef Mengele, the German death camp doctor, was sighted in Paraguay as late as last July.

Mr. Wiesenthal, in interviews at his Documentation Center here in the last week, said that the last confirmed sighting was in the settlement of Capitán Miranda, outside Hohenau.

According to previous accounts, Dr. Mengele was seen in 1983 in Parral, Chile, and in Brazil. Other reports placed him in Paraguay in 1982. According to Gerald Posner, a New York lawyer who is writing a book on Dr. Mengele, the Nazi doctor narrowly escaped capture in the 1960's by Jewish agents in the area mentioned by Mr. Wiesenthal.

Mr. Wiesenthal said he had informed Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany that Dr. Mengele was seen in July separately by three unidentified people who do not know one another and who live in different countries.

Kohl Requested Information

Mr. Wiesenthal wrote to Mr. Kohl in response to a letter requesting assistance as West Germany prepares for a visit in early July by Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, the Paraguayan leader.

A West German Government spokesman, Karin Konrad, said today that she was unable to confirm the exchange of letters.

General Stroessner, who was born in Hof, Bavaria, and last visited West Germany in 1973, will be feted in Bavaria by an organization called the In-

stitute for the Development of German-Paraguayan Relations. He is expected to be received by Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Premier.

The visit has been criticized by the opposition Social Democratic Party, and President Richard von Weizsäcker has, according to well-placed officials, extended a summer vacation abroad to avoid having to greet the visitor.

Mr. Wiesenthal said that recent reports from agents and informers had convinced him that Dr. Mengele remained in hiding under the protection of the Paraguayan Government.

Dr. Mengele, now 74 years old, is wanted in West Germany, Israel and the United States for atrocities committed in his role as a physician at the Auschwitz camp, where he selected victims for the gas chambers and conducted fatal and maiming experiments on prisoners.

Last week, officials of the three countries, meeting in Frankfurt, said they were coordinating efforts to apprehend and prosecute him. Rewards totalling nearly \$4 million have been offered for information leading to his capture.

Mr. Wiesenthal said he believed that General Stroessner's visit to West Germany offered the best chance for bringing Dr. Mengele to justice. In the Nazi hunter's view, as well as that of investigators in other countries, Paraguay's will be the key to apprehension.

Persuasion of Paraguay at Issue

Many investigators believe that if General Stroessner wanted to deliver Dr. Mengele, his secret police could do so quickly. Pressure from West Germany and the United States are thought to be factors that might persuade General Stroessner, who has ruled Paraguay for 31 years and whose power is nearly absolute.

Mr. Wiesenthal said that Mr. Kohl, in his letter, dated March 8, said he intended to "raise emphatically" the issue of Dr. Mengele's extradition. In view of the Paraguayan Government's assertions that the wanted man is not in Paraguay, Mr. Kohl continued, West German pressure would be more effective if Mr. Wiesenthal were to supply particulars to substantiate his belief that Dr. Mengele is there.

In the 1960's, Dr. Mengele was said to have been a frequent visitor at the Hotel del Tiro outside Capitán Miranda. Mr. Wiesenthal said that reliable agents, during a visit to the area in recent weeks, had verified the informa-

tion that Dr. Mengele had been there last July.

The area was described as difficult access because it is near a closed military zone with several presidential summer homes.

Mr. Wiesenthal told Mr. Kohl that the Paraguayan Government was in position to profess that Dr. Mengele does not live in Paraguay since he has been there living since 1979 and assumed name and as a citizen of an unidentified Central American country.

In February 1981, Mr. Wiesenthal formed Hans Eberhard Klein, Frankfurt prosecutor responsible for the West German case against Mengele, that the doctor obtained a passport for that Central American country in 1979. He was said to have done so through an office in the Washington area.

Fingerprint Reported Found

Special to The New York Times

BONN, May 14 — A West German newspaper, in an article in a Wednesday, says that Red Cross officials in Geneva have found a fingerprint of Dr. Mengele on an application form for a Red Cross travel document issued in Genoa, Italy, in 1949.

The newspaper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, quotes Nicolas Vecsey, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross's Search Service, as having said that the fingerprint, of the right hand, was found on a form Dr. Mengele thought to have filled out at the Cross regional office in Genoa to obtain a passport under the name Heinrich Gregor that he used to travel to Argentina in 1949. West German prosecutors are believed to have fingerprints of Mengele taken in the 1950's in Argentina.

The Red Cross form also carried a photograph, but some investigators believe it is that of Dr. Mengele's brother, Alois.

The document lists the name of the ship on which the passport holder intended to travel as the North Atlantic, the steamship line Compagnia Transatlantica.

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3 Syrians Convicted of Spying For the Israelis Are Hanged

DAMASCUS, Syria, May 14 (AP) — Three Syrians convicted of spying for Israel were hanged at dawn today.

Their names, listed on white sheets of paper pinned to the bodies, were given as Tewfik Abbas, Farid Darwish and Muhieddin Hourani. The bodies were left on the gallows for three hours for the public to see.

A military court found them guilty of "passing classified information and jeopardizing the state's security to the Israeli enemy," military sources said.

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(C)NYTIMES SEE ABSTRACT FOR YEAR NONTIMES MATERIAL BY PERMISSION
1 OF 13 LAT/JNL 1979-8-8 7 1 47WGT 9/LIN
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NOTORIOUS NAZI DOCTOR JOSEF MENGELE IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED
TO BE LIVING IN PARAGUAY, ALTHOUGH PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS
ROUTINELY DENY SUCH REPORTS; WAS GRANTED PARAGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP
IN '59, BUT CONTINUED TO LIVE IN ARGENTINA UNTIL '60 ABDUCTION
OF ADOLF EICHMANN BY ISRAELI AGENTS; IS BELIEVED BY ISRAELI
INVESTIGATORS TO BE IN HIDING NEAR SOUTHEASTERN VILLAGE OF
HOHENAU, WITH PROXIMITY TO PARANA RIVER OFFERING QUICK ACCESS
TO BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA; REPORTEDLY VISITED EUROPE IN DISGUISE
SEVERAL TIMES IN '60S AND '70S; MENGELE PHOTO (M)

2 OF 13 NYT/JNL 1979-5-31 3 19 3 47WGT 2/LIN
151-79-58 REV/TOM 1651294/IDN
BRIT TV DOCUMENTARY ON INTERNATL SEARCH FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINAL
DR JOSEF MENGELE REVD (S)

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3 OF 13 WP/JNL 1979-4-1-8 1 1 47WGT 11/LIN
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PROFILE OF NAZI HUNTER SIMON WIESENTHAL NOTES SIMON WIESENTHAL
CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES WILL BE DEDICATED APRIL 24 BY
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY IN LOS ANGELES; WIESENTHAL ESTIMATES THERE
ARE 250,000 FORMER NAZIS ALIVE IN AUSTRIA; ASSERTS NAZIS FROM
AUSTRIA WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR 50% OF WAR CRIMES; ADDS 150,000
GERMANS COMMITTED WAR CRIMES AND 90% OF THEM SURVIVED WAR;
ASSERTS ONLY 60,000 WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL; ESTIMATES 15,000 TO
20,000 ARE STILL LIVING IN SOUTH AMERICA, SPAIN, NEAR EAST,
GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE; ASSERTS JOSEPH MENGELE IS LIVING IN
PARAGUAY AND WALTER RAUFF IN PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE; PHOTOS OF
GUSTAV FRANZ WAGNER, ADOLF EICHMANN, WIESENTHAL (M)

4 OF 13 NYT/JNL 1979-3-28 24 4 47WGT 6/LIN
87-79-14 LR/TOM 1617410/IDN

PROF RICHARD ARENS LR ON RECENT SIXTY MINUTES (TV PROGRAM) REPT
ON PRESENCE IN PARAGUAY OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL JOSEF MENGELE;
REJECTS US STATE DEPT CLAIM TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF
WHEREABOUTS; ALSO NOTES REPTS THAT MENGELE IS NOW PERFORMING
HUMAN EXPERIMENTS ON FOREST INDIANS; ALLEGED TARGETS OF
GENOCIDAL REGIME OF PRES ALFREDO STROESSNER

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5 OF 13 WP/JNL 1978-11-19 14 1 47WGT 5/LIN
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JACK ANDERSON DESCRIBES SEARCH FOR JOSEF MENGELE, DEATH
DOCTOR OF NAZI EXTERMINATION CAMP AT AUSCHWITZ, WHO HAS ELUDED
CAPTURE FOR QUARTER CENTURY; NOTES MENGELE IS THOUGHT TO BE IN
PARAGUAY UNDER PROTECTION OF PARAGUAY'S DICTATOR ALFREDO
STROESSNER; DRAWINGS OF MENGELE (PARADE MAGAZINE) (L)

6 OF 13 WP/JNL 1977-8-28 2 7 1 47WGT 8/LIN
NO FICHE EDC/TOM 1371527/IDN

JACK ANDERSON DISCUSSES NAZI WAR CRIMINAL DR JOSEF MENGELE;
INDICATES SOURCES ASSERT MENGELE NOW LIVES HIDDEN IN RAIN
FORESTS OF PARAGUAY; MENTIONS '60'S MEETING WITH NAZI MASS
MURDERER HERBERT CUKURS WHO ALLEGEDLY OFFERED TO INFORM JEWISH
AGENTS OF MENGELE'S WHEREABOUTS IN RETURN FOR OWN PERSONAL
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West Germans Believe Mengele Is Still Living

Special to The New York Times

BONN, April 24 — Two West German prosecutors said today that they were convinced that Josef Mengele, the Nazi camp doctor, is alive.

The two prosecutors — Hans-Eberhard Klein of Frankfurt and Alfred Streim of Stuttgart — said in telephone interviews that the best indications were that Dr. Mengele is in Paraguay. The Government of Paraguay has denied that he lives there.

However, the prosecutors warned against exaggerated hopes that Dr. Mengele would be captured.

A \$2.3 million reward has been posted for the doctor, who is wanted for selecting people for the Auschwitz gas chamber and for carrying out pseudo-medical experiments.

On Monday, Neal M. Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations in the Justice Department, said in a Senate hearing in Philadelphia that he believed Dr. Mengele would be captured.

Mine Blast in Japan Kills 11

TOKYO, April 24 (Reuters) — Eleven workers were killed and six injured in a coal mine explosion today on a small island off the southern Japanese city of Nagasaki, the police said. They said 501 workers were in the mine when the explosion occurred. All were accounted for.

Patents: Saturday in Business Day

U.S. Marshals Joining Search For Nazi Death Camp Doctor

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

United States marshals have begun searching for the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele with interviews in West Germany and possibly other countries, according to officials and specialists familiar with the investigation.

Justice Department officials reiterated yesterday that they were assuming the notorious death camp doctor was alive — he would have turned 74 last week — but acknowledged they had no proof nor any reliable information on his whereabouts.

"We are working with a number of foreign governments that are assisting us," said Howard Safir, associate director for operations for the United States Marshal's Service, which usually pursues Federal escapees and performs domestic law enforcement work. Mr. Safir said a special unit had been formed to hunt for the fugitive but he declined to give its size or provide other details.

Marshals Go to Germany

Others involved in the investigation said, however, that marshals had been to West Germany to question several jailed drug smugglers said to have been close to Dr. Mengele in Paraguay, his last confirmed residence.

The Marshal's service was directed by Attorney General William French Smith in February to join the hunt for Dr. Mengele, who is wanted by West Germany for mass killings and pseudo-medical experiments at the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp during World War II.

As part of the inquiry, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations is also checking into a report that Dr. Mengele may have been arrested and freed by the American military authorities in Vienna in 1947.

The account, by a postwar American

counterintelligence agent, has proved difficult to verify and has raised many complex questions, according to one of the investigators.

Neal M. Sher, director of the special operations unit, said he would not go beyond his remarks Monday at a special Senate hearing in Philadelphia, where survivors of the Nazi horror were holding a conference. In response to a question there, Mr. Sher said he believed Dr. Mengele was alive and would be captured.

No New Information

Specialists in and out of Government said yesterday that Mr. Sher's comments were not meant to suggest that the Government had any new information or that any breakthrough was imminent.

But the involvement by the United States marshals is new.

Mr. Safir said the force of 2,400 marshals — Federal sheriffs he called them — had extensive experience here and abroad tracking down such highly wanted fugitives as Christopher Boyce, the escaped spy, and Edwin Wilson, the renegade former intelligence agent-turned-arms dealer.

Like other Federal law enforcement agents, marshals carry arms and engage in undercover operations, Mr. Safir said.

In foreign countries, however, marshals must operate with the approval of the host government and have no authority to arrest non-Americans. In Paraguay, for example, they would have to get the Paraguayan authorities to make an arrest.

Officials said that the Central Intelligence Agency was providing information to American Government investigators but was not taking a lead role in the Mengele search.

Dogged U.S. Dentist-Envoy Finds X-Ray of Mengele

By Richard House

Special to The Washington Post

SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 27 — Defective work by a dentist turned U.S. consul here has uncovered X-rays that finally should close the file on Josef Mengele, the most wanted Nazi war criminal.

Nine months after international forensic scientists stated that they were sure, within reasonable doubt, of Mengele's death in 1979 after a drowning accident on the Brazilian coast, they hardened the verdict today.

Diplomats say they have finally laid to rest doubts by all "reasonable and reasonable" investigators who had favored conspiracy theories, arguing that Mengele cunningly had faked his death in Brazil and moved on. Israel found the earlier findings inconclusive.

Forensic odontologist Lowell J.

Levine, a consultant to the U.S. Justice Department, said in a formal report to Brazilian authorities that he was "absolutely certain" that the remains uncovered in a cemetery near here in 1985 were those of Mengele. His evidence was dental X-rays dating from March 1976.

The X-rays exhibit multiple, unique and individual characteristics," said Levine and his Brazilian counterpart, Dr. Carlos Valerio.

The U.S. consul general in Sao Paulo, erstwhile dentist Stephen Dachi, and his deputy Fred Kaplan unearthed a clue in the yellow pages of an old telephone directory.

Although investigators had determined that Mengele had lived in Brazil, they could not say with certainty that he had died here. There were no fingerprints, and the only surviving dental records were from the 1930s.

Dachi uncovered the X-rays last Friday, acting on a hunch after Brazilian police had failed to trace doctors and dentists mentioned in a di-

ary compiled by Mengele covering his years in Brazil.

Mengele's protectors in Brazil had concealed the diary from police and later sold it to a West German magazine. The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations translated it into English.

Mengele's diary made a single reference to a root canal treatment in 1978 by a "Dr. Gama" in "Sama," but the single Dr. Gama uncovered by police was the wrong man.

"We were riding back from talking to the wrong Dr. Gama, kind of down because we had struck out," said Dachi. Then they looked again at the diary transcript. Although "Sama" appeared several times in the diary, there is no such place in Brazil. Dachi noticed a number of abbreviations and guessed it meant Santo Amaro, a residential suburb.

In an old directory, Dachi and Kaplan found the name of Dr. Hercy Gonzaga Gama Angelo, a root canal specialist. Gama's records con-

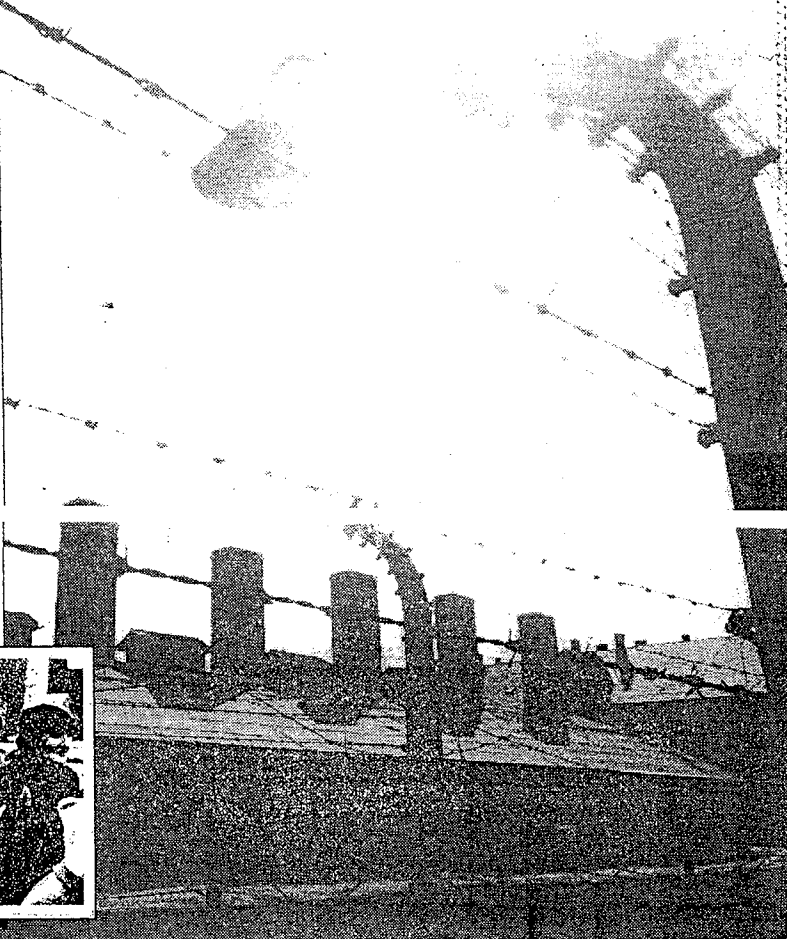
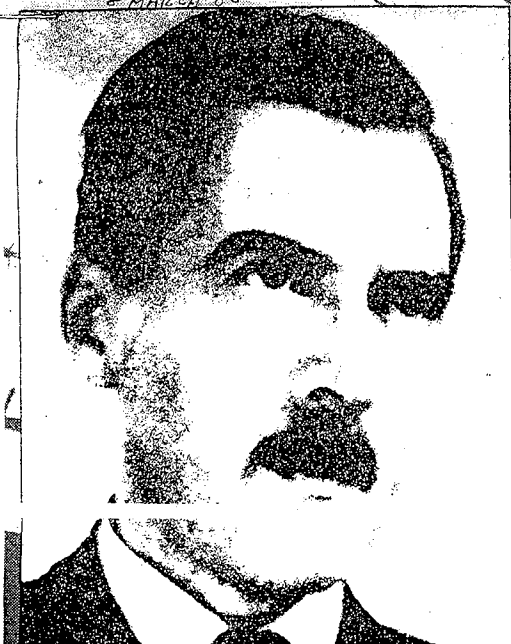
firmed that in December 1978, he had treated a "Pedro Hochbichler" who gave his address as Mengele's last known hideout. The alias had been used by Mengele.

The dentist who had sent "Hochbichler" to Gama produced a dental chart and an envelope with eight X-rays and confirmed that dental bridges and crowns found in the skull were his own work.

"I never expected anything like this," said the dentist, Dr. Kasumasa Tutiya, in a phone interview. "He was just one of my patients."

When [Dr. Tutiya] dropped those X-rays on the table it was like winning the lottery," said Dachi. In 40 years, no one has ever found a single X-ray of Mengele. "We found a man who had eight X-rays," Dachi, formerly an oral pathologist, also had provided the tooth work in an early phase of the probe, linking evidence of a jawbone infection to Mengele through testimony of a couple who had sheltered him.

WASH. POST
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View of the barracks at Auschwitz. Insets: Mengele in Paraguay in 1960, and prisoners marching through Auschwitz.

MENGELE BY UP; PRISONERS FROM PETER HELLMAN'S "THE AUSCHWITZ ALBUM"

On the Trail of Mengele

Seen but Not Found, Sought but Not Caught: Where Is the Nazi Doctor of Death?

By Art Harris

Washington Post Staff Writer

Tales of the Angel of Death, told over and over: they come from Auschwitz, from the jungles of South America, from CIA files, from fevered Nazi-struck imaginations, from hucksters of hellish relics. Somehow, they are all different, but all the same.

Take the woman in the jewelry store in Asunción, Paraguay. She told an Israeli official about the day in 1965 when a customer asked about some merchandise. She came around the counter. She saw Josef Mengele. Two decades before, trim and elegant in his sleek black SS uniform, he had personally dispatched 400,000 other Jews to the ovens with a flick of his black-gloved wrist. But not her. She'd survived. And now he was prowling in her jewelry store, just one of 40,000 Germans living in Paraguay.

She could not speak, she would say later. She watched

him leave, and then she told her husband: "It was him. It was Mengele."

For 40 years, one of the monsters of history has wandered the globe untouched, a free man: the most notorious Nazi war criminal believed alive today, the Auschwitz doctor whose mass murders and grisly experiments evoke Evil Incarnate.

How can this be?

West Germany has had a warrant out for his arrest for 26 years and has added a \$350,000 reward. Israeli Nazi hunters spirited Adolf Eichmann out of Argentina, but others have missed Mengele, they say, by minutes at a Paraguayan hotel, by little more at the Rome airport. CIA informants put him in Brazil, in Chile, in the drug trade or working as an auto mechanic. German prosecutors believe he may have been in Paraguay as late as 1982, if a jailed drug suspect can be be-

lieved: He is said to have been Mengele's roommate outside Asunción, where they shared a passion for beekeeping.

What's more, the sightings began as soon as the Third Reich fell. American GIs say they saw him in an Army prison; a German professor claims he interviewed Mengele at a British prison camp in 1947. After that Mengele lived in his home town in Bavaria, where his family had made its fortune in the farm machinery business. His name arose at the Nuremberg war-crime trials, and he fled to Rome, where he is said to have gotten papers under the name of Grégorio Gregori.

In either 1949 or 1951, according to conflicting reports, he sailed from Italy to Argentina, where he lived under his own name in Buenos Aires, hawking heavy equipment for the family firm. Neighbors say he was "quiet, distinguished and courteous."

As Dr. Helmut Gregor, one of the dozen aliases he adopted

See MENGELE, C8, Col. 1

The Hunt for Josef Mengele

MENGELE, From C1

over the years, he became an Argentine citizen in 1954 and performed abortions, says Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. (At one point, he was "detained" by police when a patient died.) His first wife divorced him that year, and in 1958 he married his older brother's widow. They were divorced three years later, and she left for Switzerland and Italy. After the West German warrant was issued in 1959 he became a Paraguayan citizen; he is said to have attended his father's funeral in Germany that year.

He has lived his life. He has had friends, patients, family. Now bounty hunters, revenge seekers, glory hounds and die-hard believers in earthly justice descend on South America in such numbers that they have fostered a trade in relics of this saint of Hell—photographs, an ID card, whatever souvenir of evil you want, except the man himself.

If alive, he would be 74 this month. Now America wants him. Its top Nazi hunter, Neal Sher, a Justice Department lawyer who heads the Office of Special Investigations, flew to Europe last week to seek leads from German prosecutors and Nazi trackers like Wiesenthal, 76, who suspect Mengele is still in Paraguay, protected by President Alfredo Stroessner; but after all these years, they still don't really know.

On his SS application, he said he stood 5 feet 9, with brown hair and blue eyes. But others remember a shorter, darker-looking man in a country that worshipped blue-eyed blonds. Mengele's hang-up was that he "looked like a Gypsy," says Wiesenthal.

Indeed, he aimed to keep nature from future mistakes, drafting human guinea pigs for macabre experiments he believed might make Hitler's dream of an Aryan master race come true. As the SS doctor at Auschwitz, he dispatched nearly half a million to the gas chambers and killed thousands more with mad genetic quackery.

He was obsessed with twins: if German women could repopulate after the war with multiple births, military losses might be offset. He handpicked specimens as they came off the trains at Auschwitz-Birkenau deep inside Poland. In his black SS uniform, shiny stick in hand, he cut a striking figure to the bedraggled, frightened Jews, waving some to the left, to die, others to the right, to live.

"He looked gorgeous," recalls twin Eva Kor, 50, who sells real estate in Terre Haute, Ind. "But everyone was

course, treated like prize pet rabbits. But if one in a pair died, Mengele killed the other to compare autopsies.

In other experiments, he snatched babies from mothers and tried to change the color of their eyes and hair, then killed them by injection. "What's the difference if you make black eyes out of blue eyes?" he asked one mother, then tried it with her child. It died.

Witnesses have also told German prosecutors:

He offered candy to two sets of twin girls, then shot them in the neck, castrated or sterilized "about 100 male prisoners," routinely tossed babies into ovens alive and wired inmates with electrodes to test their threshold for electric shock.

To boost his labor force, he ordered pregnant women onto their backs, then stomped them until they aborted. Once, he promised a special milk porridge for all expectant mothers who signed up, then gassed them all. He also gassed a barracks that included some of his former professors, all Jews.

"We called him the 'death doctor,'" says survivor Ernest Michel, 61, of New York City, who once escorted eight Jewish women to Mengele's lab as an orderly. When he hauled them away, two were dead, two were in a coma, another had to be disconnected from an electroshock machine.

Spared for his elegant penmanship, Michel was ordered to rewrite medical history. "Heart attack," he wrote day after day to cover up the true cause of death. "Our biggest fear was that no one would be left alive to tell what really happened," he says.

As one of Mengele's pets, Berkowitz was there in 1944 when his keeper exploded over a report of lice among the Gypsies. "I'm sick and tired of these filthy, diseased pigs," Mengele ranted. "I've been trying to keep this camp clean, and I'm fighting a losing battle!"

His solution: send the whole barracks to the gas chambers. And 700 Gypsies were marched off to be "disinfected" forever. One German officer nodded at Berkowitz, a witness to his rage. Said Mengele, "Don't worry, he's one of us. If we had more boys like him, we would have won the war."

Mengele liked to test Berkowitz, probing for the secret of his endurance. Once, he ordered Berkowitz to swim with the SS men who nearly drowned him for sport. To retest his courage, it was back to the pool.

When his mother's barracks was marched off to the gas chamber, Mengele conjured an errand so Berkowitz could take a last walk with

SS general who conceived and operated mobile gas chambers used to exterminate Jews. He recently died in his sleep after running a fishing boat for years, under his own name, out of Puerto Provenir. Chile's supreme court denied his extradition request on a technicality. Another extradition request was denied in 1959 by Argentina, on grounds that it was written in German, not Spanish. And not till 1970 did Paraguay concede Mengele had been naturalized years before.

"The last photograph is 1963 in Asunción," says Wiesenthal by phone from Vienna. "We don't know his [new] alias."

What of rumors he may have undergone plastic surgery? Wiesenthal doubts it; no Nazi war criminal he caught ever went under the knife. What about the report of postcards sent to friends from Portugal? Does Wiesenthal say this is a Nazi disinformation trick to blur the trail?

Or CIA files portraying Mengele as a cocaine warlord, dealing under the name Dr. Henrique Wollman? "A stupid story," Wiesenthal scoffs. "He doesn't need the money."

It would certainly seem that way, if he can rely on rich Nazi friends and the family conglomerate, Karl Mengele & Sons, with offices in Paraguay, Argentina and the United States.

A \$1 million bounty was offered last week by unnamed donors in Los Angeles after lesser amounts did no good.

He remains at bay, a fugitive with all the glamor of an emissary from hell, merely yapped at by the hounds of justice, and mythologized by Hollywood in two movies, "Marathon Man" and "The Boys From Brazil."

Mengele was born March 16, 1911, in Guenzburg, Germany, the third son of a wealthy farm machinery manufacturer. At 24, he joined Hitler's "Brown Shirts," the Nazi Party three years later.

He studied anthropology and zoology in Munich, hatching a fascination for genetics, which was further fueled at the Institute for Genetic Purification in Frankfurt. In 1938, he graduated from medical school, married Irene Maria Schoenbein, joined the Waffen SS and became the Auschwitz camp physician.

His son Rolf was born at Auschwitz in 1944.

Like other Nazis in the early days after the war, he made little effort to hide his identity.

But at least two U.S. Army vet-



Josef Mengele in an undated photo, some of the world's most fertile sub-tropical farmland.

It was there Mengele was sighted in the '60s, from Pedro Juan Caballero, a coffee-growing town to the north of Hohenau, a farming village to the south. Israeli agents staked out a hideout in a heavily fortified farmhouse nearby in the early '60s, but ruled out a commando raid. There was no airport nearby to pull off an Entebbe, and Israel couldn't afford any diplomatic casualties: the Eichmann affair had ended their honeymoon.

Agents kept up their search in Asunción and the interior, then lost Mengele across the border in Brazil, according to heavily edited CIA files released last week. "Accounts also surfaced of assorted avengers on the loose, and someone apparently mistook a man for Mengele. He was found beaten to death, but it turned out to be an ex-Nazi soldier."

Diplomacy offered another route for frustration. When West Germany's envoy protested in 1965 that Mengele's citizenship was invalid, Stroessner is said to have exploded in rage. "Once a Paraguayan, always a Paraguayan!" he shouted, pounding the table.

Especially when the citizenship papers are signed by old Stroessner friends like Alejandro von Eckstein, a Russian émigré who fought alongside Stroessner in the Chaco War with Bolivia, and who still advises Paraguayan intelligence services.

At the American Embassy at Asunción, there were frequent rumors of Martin Bormann alive and well, but never Mengele, recalls A. Dane Bowen, political officer until 1964. Besides: "Hunting Nazi war criminals wasn't our big preoccupation."

In those days, Mengele lived open-

America. Rudel was a fixture at diplomatic receptions, a favorite of Stroessner, and a representative for German firms.

His dealings also included substantial payments to Stroessner's son, says Paris-based Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld, who, along with her husband, tracked Nazi war criminal Klaus Altman Barbie to Bolivia, where he lived openly as a government security consultant before his extradition to France. She claims Rudel's financial documents, in her files, detail the deals.

"I bumped into Rudel all over the place," says Benjamin Weiser Varone, 71, the former Israeli ambassador who made it a habit to befriend those like the jeweler's wife who had seen Mengele. He met Mengele's lawyer, dutifully filing such reports to Tel Aviv. He got no reply.

"Israel doesn't expect its ambassadors to be Nazi hunters," he says. But whenever Nazi hunters back home raised a fuss, Paraguayan officials called Varone on the carpet. "They would call me to express the displeasure of their president," says the retired diplomat turned writer, who lives in Brookline, Mass. "But they never denied he was there."

Naturally, Varone was a magnet for mercenaries and crackpots chasing the doctor. His standard line: "Go across the street. The Germans have a warrant for his arrest." His job was to keep Paraguay's crucial U.N. Security Council vote in Israel's corner. He charmed, he cajoled, he got it, even as Mengele was seen around town.

Later, in 1978, the U.S. Embassy heard he frequented the Caballo Blanco, or White Horse, a favorite German restaurant downtown. And a BBC crew with a hidden mike captured a Nazi boasting of playing cards with the doctor.

"Mengele? Oh, yes, he's around, but we don't know quite where. He comes and goes," officials would reply whenever Ambassador Robert White brought it up.

So, why wasn't he arrested—or something? "Because he wasn't wanted all that much," says White, who filed his Mengele tales with the State Department and got no reply. "We did report on it, but there was never much interest expressed by Washington in any way."

Still, such accounts irritated officials in the remote haven for right-wing refugees. "Bob, how can we polish up our image?" he was often asked.

"A good place to start would be to cancel Mengele's citizenship," he re-

sponded. "They are one of the blue whereabouts has mystified them since 1962, when Germany's first extradition request arrived. But if a hideout can be found, they promise to dispatch a posse. "We have made a full investigation and found no trace of Mengele in Paraguay," says the embassy press attache. "We believe he is not there anymore."

Horror like the Holocaust make Everyman a philosopher. Questions beget more questions: If Mengele is never caught, does that mean you can do unspeakable things in this life and escape justice? Or if he is put on trial, will that mean good finally triumphed over evil?

On Jan. 27, 1945, Berkowitz and his sister were liberated by the Russians, after surviving a death march in the freezing cold. And three years later, after stints in refugee camps, they wound up in America, sole survivors of a family of nine.

Berkowitz washed dishes in New York, sold furniture, shrugged off the pain of a crumbling spine and fought to understand. With Eva Kor, he started a support group for Auschwitz twins called Candies. So far, about 120 have come forward, 20 from the States. Many testified at a mock trial for Mengele in Jerusalem last month.

If Mengele is ever arrested, Berkowitz wants to ask him some questions: "I would like to ask him exactly what he did to his guinea pigs, so we can get medical help," he says. "We are like a puzzle. We have to be put back together piece by piece."

Ambivalent about revenge, he would prefer a trial. He doesn't hate Mengele. And he reflects that he is still his errand boy: "You see, he never dismissed me."

Says Wiesenthal: "Look, the life of Mengele is without importance. After so many years, criminals turn into witnesses. How can you punish somebody for the deaths of 400,000 people? If he is caught and gets life, he'll probably serve only a few years before he dies. That will end up to be a few seconds per victim."

But if Mengele is sent to the gallows, "the survivors should do it," says Berkowitz.

Now Mengele is hot, everyone's favorite villain. It's only taken 40 years. In South America, there are those who can look on it as a trend, not unlike other trends, a sort of nostalgia craze.

"There are people out there willing to sell you Bormann's bones and Mengele's hacienda," says New York lawyer Gerald Posner, whose re-

Terre Haute, Ind. "But everyone was scared of him. He decided how long you lived."

One 12-year-old Jewish boy held a special fascination: Marc Berkowitz had blond hair, blue eyes and a twin sister, Francesca. SS officers on the lookout for lab rats perked up when their mother shouted, "Kill me, but not my twins!" Immediately, they were brought to Mengele, and the

Berkowitz was ordered to disrobe and lie on a table. Fluid was drawn from his spine. "My whole body was burning, and the next thing I knew I was fighting back fainting," recalls the 53-year-old retired New York furniture salesman, physically disabled from his days at Auschwitz. He heard a whimper and reached out to comfort his sister. She lay on the next table.

"At times, Mengele was almost gentle. He patted Berkowitz on the head as a nurse mopped his brow. Sometimes, he even apologized. 'I'm sorry we have to do this, but the pain will go away,' he said.

Yet if his guinea pigs passed out, or fought back, he eliminated them," says Berkowitz, who watched bloody bundles carried out of the lab. Ever stoic, Berkowitz fought to detach himself from the pain, and did as he was told. Once, he stood on his head for hours without passing out. He was prodded, punctured and poked. He was dunked in a steel vat of freezing water while Mengele lab technicians monitored his plummeting body temperature.

At last, when he was pulled out alive, Mengele strutted about the lab in ecstasy. He liked Berkowitz's attitude. "You're the type of boy I've been looking for," he said. "You're setting an example. The other children are behaving themselves. We're getting good results."

Berkowitz just tried to obey, intent on living from "moment to moment, second to second." So pleased was the doctor with his star guinea pig that he made Berkowitz his "lauper," or errand boy. He taught him German songs, recited poetry. Mengele loved classical music, and Berkowitz hand-cranked his Victrola, shined his boots and harvested his brussels sprouts.

But Mengele's moods changed like the weather. One day, Berkowitz watched him shoot a boy, first in one knee, then in the other. The boy was weeping as Mengele grabbed him by the hair and gave the *coup de grace* with a bullet in the brain. His sin: he'd wandered away from his barracks.

"You know he had no business over there," said Mengele. He asked Berkowitz if he'd done "something wrong" in shooting the boy, but didn't wait for an answer. "You have to respect the laws of the place," he said.

All the time, the crematoriums were running. Twins who survived the experiments were spared, of

Mengele conjured an errand so Berkowitz could take a last walk with Helen Berkowitz. For Mengele, it was just another experiment, the Angel of Death testing the faith of a Jew.

"So," asked Mengele later, "do you still believe in God?"

"I've lost almost everything," replied Berkowitz, "but one thing I have not lost is God. You can take everything from me, but you cannot take

Mengele reached for his revolver. It was holstered in black leather, hanging over a chair. He unsnapped one button. He unsnapped the other. He stared long and hard at his gofer.

"You gave the right answer," he said. He nodded at his boots. "I want a good shine today. I have very important things to tend to."

Berkowitz walked outside. Smoke was belching thick and black. He was thinking, "I'm only 12, but I'd better say Kaddish (the prayer for the dead) for my mother. I don't know if I'll be around to say it tomorrow."

On Christmas Eve 1944, with the Russians advancing on the eastern front, Mengele found Berkowitz in the washroom. A light snow was falling. Pausing at the door, flanked by two SS guards, he wished him well. Mengele seemed almost wistful. "Adieu," he said. And that was the last time Berkowitz saw him.

Everyone has an answer, a rumor, a theory, a cold lead, an excuse.

"I've [barely] missed him five times," says Wiesenthal. He has bagged 1,100 war criminals in his lifetime without ever getting as close to Mengele as the jeweler's wife.

Christmas 1963. Wiesenthal got tipped off in a letter: Mengele, Hotel American, Milan. He flew there with a German prosecutor. Said the manager, "Yesterday, he left." In Torremolinos, Spain, he missed him by two days; at the Rome airport, by mere hours.

Later, a group of Auschwitz avengers called the "Committee of 12" tracked him to the Hotel Tyrol near the thriving German colony of Hohenau in eastern Paraguay. They planned to spirit him to Frankfurt to stand trial. His alias that time: Dr. Fritz Fischer. They burst into room 26, but he was gone. Minutes before, Herr Fischer got a phone call, said the manager, raced down the stairs with his pajamas on under his suit, and vanished in the night.

Intelligence tips put Mengele in Chile 18 months ago; in Paraguay's German-speaking Mennonite villages on the Bolivian border as recently as last year; in Uruguay six months ago.

South American governments, rubbed raw by complaints that they're sheltering the fled legions of the Nazis, deny it all.

Says the Chilean Embassy press officer: "We had one Nazi war criminal, and that was plenty." That would have been the late Wilhelm B.

after the war, he made little effort to hide his identity.

But at least two U.S. Army veterans say they believe he was in U.S. custody at one time. A retired California aerospace engineer, Walter Kempthorne, says soldiers put a red-faced prisoner through calisthenics

July 10, 1945. "This here's the bastard who sterilized 3,000 women at Auschwitz," said one, as a man fitting Mengele's description huffed and puffed. Kempthorne was 19, a private at the Idar-Oberstein detention camp in occupied Germany, where Nazis were interrogated after the war.

Guards sometimes trotted them outside for fun and games, including a charade called "Luftwaffe". Prisoners were ordered to run around in circles "spitting like a plane," says Richard Schwarz, 59, a retired government labor lawyer in Washington, D.C. As a young private, he put a Nazi he now believes was Mengele through the drill, "pats on the fanny" and all.

"Presumably, it was Mengele," recalls Schwarz, who never heard the man's name, but has war correspondence indicating he wrote friends about just such a doctor. And the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, which hunts data on Nazi war criminals and supports Holocaust studies, turned up the two soldiers, along with a U.S. Army dispatch from an intelligence officer who refers to an account of Mengele's arrest in 1947.

"We're searching our records of that camp," says Lt. Col. Craig McNab, an Army spokesman. "You've got to understand, Mengele wasn't on top of anyone's list back then. In 1945, he was a doctor way off in the wilds of Poland."

And by the 1950s, he was long gone. In South America, the chase began, a slow and frustrating pursuit. Diplomatic channels yielded nothing. Everything grew vague.

Isser Harel, Israel's secret service chief who pulled off the daring snatch of Eichmann from Buenos Aires in 1960, eyed Mengele, too, but didn't want to risk losing Eichmann, he once wrote. Afterwards, Israeli agents tracked down his house in a middle-class suburb of Buenos Aires, but he was gone. They traced him to Paraguay. There, it was believed, he was protected by President Alfredo Stroessner, the right-wing strong man who took power in 1954, son of an immigrant German cavalry officer. It was easy to hide in a remote California-size country with only two million people and a gossipy capital where word travels fast when outsiders come sniffing around.

There was also plenty of camouflage from German colonies to the east, where lush, rolling hills between the Paraguay and Parana rivers lured refugees of the Nazis.

1994. Besides: "Hunting Nazi war criminals wasn't our big preoccupation."

In those days, Mengele lived openly, sunning at a villa a half-mile from the embassy and scouting for land in Alta Parana, just across the Argentine border, reportedly working as an auto mechanic northeast of Asunción near the Brazilian border. "Recurring rumors" said that Mengele was at a "well-guarded ranch, either near Encarnación, in eastern Paraguay, or in Chaco, and that he is protected by Stroessner," said a 1972 CIA report.

Veterans of the Asunción diplomatic corps say Mengele socialized with late Nazi Luftwaffe ace Hans Ulrich-Rudel, reputed mastermind of Odessa, the secret underground that resettled fleeing Nazis in South

up our image" he was often asked.

"A good place to start would be to cancel Mengele's citizenship," he replied. Then, one day, out of the blue, the foreign minister said, "Bob, that's a wonderful idea. I'll bring it up with the president." And, in 1979, Mengele was stripped of his citizenship for being "out of the country for more than two years."

"We knew he was in Paraguay, but it's not something we pursued," says Alan Ryan, the top Nazi hunter for the Justice Department until 1983. There was no jurisdiction, and Ryan was too busy chasing Nazi war criminals hiding in America to go "smoke him out of the jungle."

These tales, of course, contradict Paraguay's official shrug that his

larga craze.

"There are people out there willing to sell you Bormann's bones and Mengele's hacienda," says New York lawyer Gerald Posner, whose research forays draw Nazi brokers like flies. "The minute they hear an American is hunting Nazis, their ears perk up and their wallets get itchy."

He's spurned diaries, rings and memorabilia. How about Mengele's original fingerprint card? asked a Brazilian cop. Only \$500. Or recent photos, whispered an ex-Nazi officer over mint tea at the Hotel Mansour in Casablanca—after plastic surgery. A mere five grand. Or, maybe you like Mengele's SS ring, very cheap: \$1,000, said the Argentine lawyer.

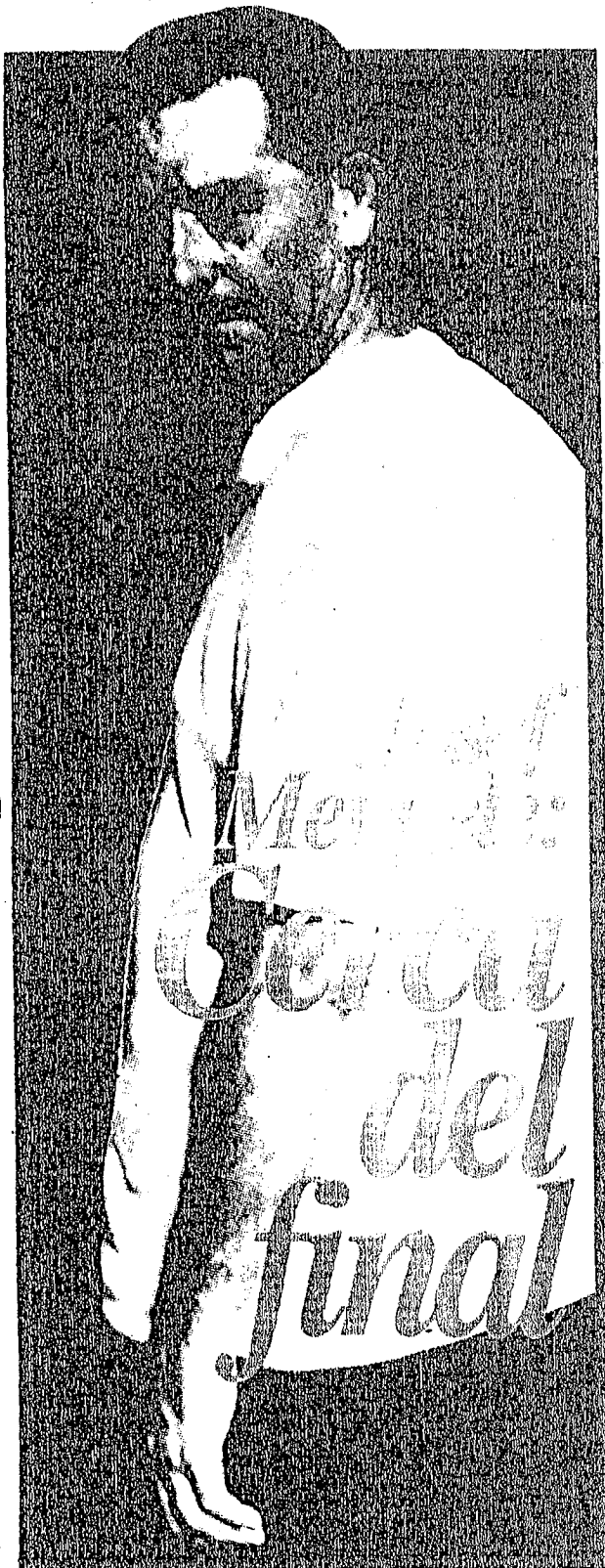
The flea market sells such rings by the trayful, swastika and all, \$3 apiece.

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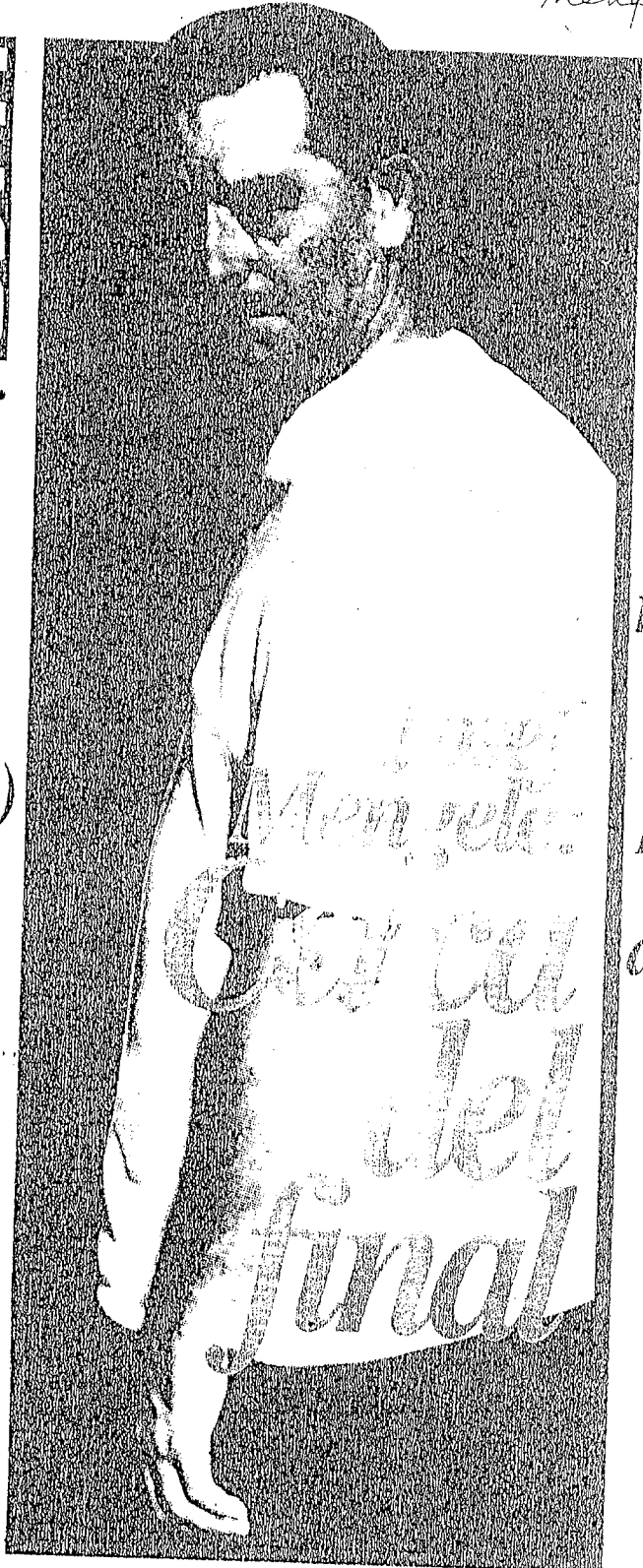
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SIETE DIAS

Documento:
El Estado
contra
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Serie:
40 años de
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El
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Menzel file

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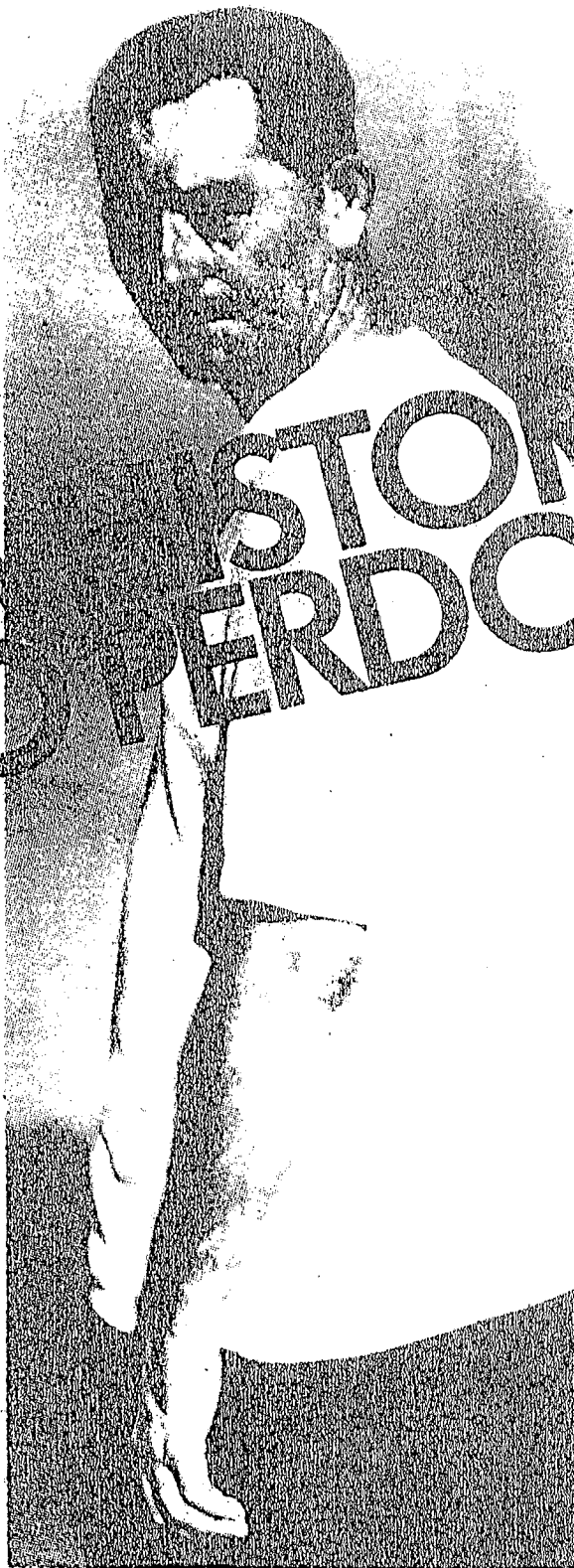
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*Josef Mengele y
una captura de
3.395.000 dólares*

LA HISTORIA NO SE PERDONA

Ingresó a la historia como uno de los hombres más crueles de la humanidad. Sus experimentos científicos en vivo, practicados en prisioneros judíos, no sirvieron a la ciencia, como él pretendía, y simplemente alimentaron su sadismo. Mandó a miles de personas a la muerte y hoy dos gobiernos y varias asociaciones civiles ponen precio a su captura.



El, probablemente, la última batalla de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y una auténtica carrera contra el tiempo. El objetivo: Josef Mengele, el más buscado de los criminales de guerra nazis, un médico mediocre que alcanzó una triste celebridad como responsable de la selección de los deportados que llegaban al campo de concentración Auschwitz-Birkenau, instalado en una tranquila aldea de Polonia. En ese escenario de espanto, Mengele tenía poder de vida y muerte sobre cada prisionero. Además de la selección, su interés se centraba sobre una serie de sádicos experimentos "in vivo", destinados a determinar las características genéticas de los gemelos y los enanos. Su rostro infantil y su actitud atele le valieron un apodo: el Ángel de la muerte.

La semana pasada, la prensa internacional publicó un aviso a página entera por el cual se ofrece una recompensa de 3.395.000 dólares por cualquier información que conduzca a la captura del criminal fugitivo. La cifra es la más alta ofrecida alguna vez por la captura de un ser humano. Fue reunida por fuentes diversas que incluyen un millón de dólares aportados por el gobierno de Israel, un millón de dólares de contribuyentes anónimos canalizados a través del Centro Simon Wiesenthal de Los Angeles, un millón de dólares del diario conservador The Washington Times, perteneciente a la organización del reverendo Moon, 320.000 dólares aportados por el gobierno de

Alemania Federal, 50.000 dólares del cazador de nazis Simon Wiesenthal y 25.000 dólares de la cazadora de nazis Beate Klarsfeld.

Con excepción de Adolf Eichmann, capturado en la Argentina por agentes israelíes en 1960, ningún criminal de guerra ha sido buscado con tanta perseverancia y con tanta intensidad. Días atrás, los gobiernos de los Estados Unidos, Alemania Federal e Israel decidieron aunar esfuerzos para llevar al prófugo a la justicia. El 15 de mayo último, en Frankfurt, el fiscal general de la ciudad, Hans-Eberhard Klein, se reunió con equipos de investigadores norteamericanos e israelíes para coordinar la operación, y se destaca que uno de los tópicos de la próxima entrevista del canciller alemán, Helmut Kohl, con el presidente paraguayo, Alfredo Stroessner, durante la visita que este realizará a Bonn, será el paradero de Mengele.

Perfil de un asesino

Nombre y apellido: Josef Mengele.

Fecha de nacimiento: 16 de marzo de 1911.

Lugar: Günzburg, Baviera.

Descripción física: 1.74 de estatura, ojos marrones, nariz recta, boca mediana, orejas normales.

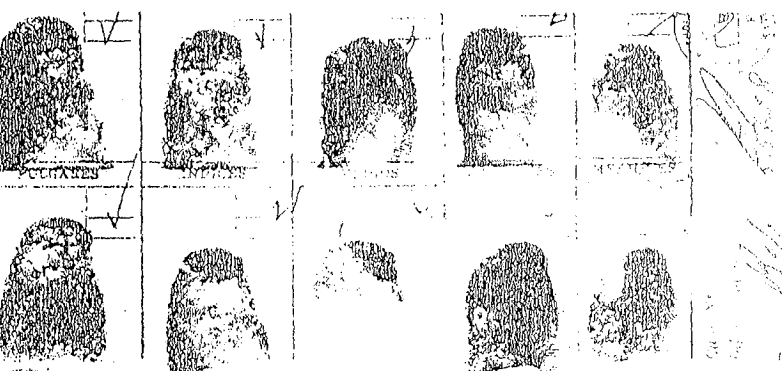
Günzburg es una pequeña ciudad sobre la costa del Danubio. Uno de esos poblados tranquilos donde la gente se reúne por las noches en las cervcerías y canta canciones hasta el amanecer. Por más de 300 años, ningún judío vivió en Günzburg y la única familia residente se estableció allí recién algunos años después de finalizada la Segunda Guerra.

Según Julius Diesbach, un compañero de estudios de Mengele entrevistado por SIETE DIAS, el jefe nazi, a quien llamaban "Peppo", era un muchacho de gran ambición, con una marcada necesidad de sobresalir: "Le gustaba la vida social, los bailes y resultaba muy atractivo a las mujeres. Siempre quiso destacarse, ser un gran científico. Creo que fue su pasión por la notoriedad, ese interés des-

Dirección de Investigaciones

MANO DERECHA

MANO IZQUIERDA



Las huellas digitales de Mengele, tomadas por la Policía Federal argentina, un elemento clave para identificarlo.

humanizado del científico lo que exacerbó su ambición hasta el punto de no importarle otra cosa que sus experimentos", dice Diesbach.

La familia Mengele domina hoy la vida económica de Günzburg. La firma Karl Mengele e hijos produce maquinaria agrícola en una moderna planta que ocupa una superficie equivalente a dos manzanas, y está presidida en la actualidad por Dieter y Karl Heinz Mengele, hijos de Alois, el hermano del criminal de guerra. Dieter Mengele habita una suntuosa residencia en los suburbios de la ciudad. La familia jamás ha dado una entrevista a la prensa.

Josef Mengele vivió en ese ambiente casi bucólico hasta 1928, cuando marchó a Frankfurt para estudiar medicina en la Universidad Wolfgang Goethe y más tarde completó su educación con estudios de filosofía y antropología en la Universidad de Munich.

Ni bien estalló la guerra fue alistado como médico militar. En 1940 se encontraba trabajando como médico sanitario de las SS, el cuerpo de élite hitlerista, en un hospital militar ubicado detrás de las líneas francesas. Cuando los alemanes iniciaron la invasión a la Unión Soviética, Mengele fue despachado como médico al frente ruso: la fecha de este destino fue 22 de junio de 1941.

En febrero de 1942 sobrevivió el desastre de Stalingrado y el profesional fue enviado de regreso a Alemania con los sobrevivientes. En una carta dirigida a la División

de Personal de Ejército, se declaraba enfermo y debilitado e invocaba su lealtad hacia el régimen nazi para lograr su traslado del frente. Ese mismo año es enviado como oficial sanitario al campo de concentración de Auschwitz.

El 20 de enero de 1942, en Wannsee, un suburbio de Berlín, tuvo lugar una conferencia de la que participaron unos quince jefes nazis vinculados a la cuestión judía, entre ellos, Adolf Eichmann, Heinrich Mueller y Reinhard Heydrich. En el transcurso de esa reunión, se adoptó la decisión de dar "una solución final" al problema judío. La "solución" implicaba el exterminio de unos 11 millones de judíos europeos. Desde su nuevo destino, Josef Mengele se convertiría en una pieza particularmente siniestra de la maquinaria de muerte.

"Mengele era un hombre atractivo, elegante, de unos 30 años, con una cara adolescente. Hablaba el alemán culto de los intelectuales", recuerda Ella Lingens, una sobreviviente de Auschwitz. "Día por medio se paraba erguido, sobre la rampa de la estación de trenes, a veces exhibiendo una ópera, superando el arribo de los prisioneros y moviendo su pulgar a la derecha o a la izquierda después de examinar cada caso. Los prisioneros seleccionados para una columna, marchaban a los campos de trabajo, los de la otra, a las cámaras de gas."

A fines de 1944, cuando la derrota de Alemania parecía inevita-

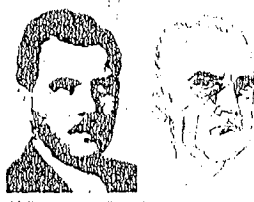
ble, Mengele escapó de Auschwitz con papeles falsos y en compañía de su amante Wilma, una mujer judía a la que había salvado de las cámaras de gas. Su paradero se pierde hasta 1947.

Un documento recientemente descubierto sugiere que una unidad de inteligencia norteamericana capturó a Mengele por un breve período en 1947. Lo que el Departamento de Justicia está tratando de establecer con la ayuda de un paquete de documentos obtenidos de diversas fuentes, es si los funcionarios norteamericanos permitieron deliberadamente la fuga del criminal de guerra. Una de las pruebas proviene de la Cruz Roja Internacional, que emitió en Viena el pasaporte que Mengele utilizó para radicarse en la Argentina, bajo el nombre de Helmut Greger.

Entre 1948 y 1949, Josef Mengele regresó a su ciudad natal, pero ante la prominencia que su nombre alcanzó en las audiencias del Tribunal Militar de Nuremberg, decidió escapar a la Argentina. Algunas fuentes consultadas en Günzburg por SIETE DIAS sugieren que regresó a su ciudad en 1959, para asistir al funeral de su padre.

Varios cazadores de nazis, especialmente Tuvia Friedman, director del Instituto para la Documentación de Crímenes de Guerra Nazis, de Haifa, Israel y Simon Wiesenthal, afirman que existe (y aún existe) un vínculo permanente entre la empresa de los Mengele en Günzburg y las actividades

SE BUSCA



Al Dr. Josef Mengele
Por sus crímenes contra la humanidad.

Dr. Josef Mengele nació el 30 de marzo de 1928 en Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Alemania. Fue un médico y científico alemán que se convirtió en uno de los más famosos médicos nazis durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Fue responsable de los experimentos médicos más crueles y mortales realizados en el campo de concentración de Auschwitz. Después de la guerra, se escondió en Brasil y luego en Paraguay, donde se convirtió en un ciudadano alemán. Fue capturado por la policía brasileña en 1967 y fue juzgado por crímenes de guerra. Fue condenado a prisión perpetua, pero fue liberado en 1971. Desde entonces, se ha convertido en uno de los buscados más famosos del mundo.

RECOMPENSA - U.S. \$2,375,000

El primer aviso de los cinco que serán publicados en todo el mundo.



La actual residencia del médico nazi en Asunción. Vive confortablemente. Viaja regularmente a Brasil.



El barrio donde vive Mengele, en Asunción. La avenida Hindenburg, una de las tantas con nombre alemán. En el país se refugiaron otros nazis.

de Josef Mengele en América del Sur. Según Friedman, Mengele compró una empresa en la Argentina juntamente con un socio, a partir de una inversión inicial de un millón de dólares. La firma fue inscrita con el nombre de Padrofarm K.G.S.A.

En 1954, Mengele se divorció de su primera mujer, Irene Schoenbein, con la que tuvo un hijo, hoy abogado con estudio en la ciudad de Freiburg. Cuatro años más tarde, en 1958, se casó en Uruguay con la viuda de su hermano Alois, Martha Weill.

El 27 de noviembre de 1959, con el testimonio de los señores Werner Jung y Alejandro von Eckstein, el gobierno paraguayo le extendió una carta de naturalización con el nombre de José Mengele. Jung era el jefe del Partido Nazi en Paraguay y Von Eckstein, un ruso blanco, de origen noble, considerado amigo personal del presidente Stroessner.

Según todos los indicios, Mengele vivió en la Argentina durante 1960. Isser Harel, el jefe del Mossad, el Servicio Secreto Israelí, el hombre que organizó la captura de Eichmann, relató que en base a las confesiones de Eichmann durante su secuestro en Buenos Aires, sus hombres dieron con el paradero de Mengele en una pensión de Vicente López, la Pensión Jurmann, pero llegaron tarde: la había dejado algunos días antes.

A fines de ese año, un ex director de la empresa Mengele de Günzburg, Hans Sedlmeyer, fue despachado al Paraguay para hacer contacto con el fugitivo. Regresó portando una declaración en la cual Mengele afirmaba que "nunca he matado ni dañado físicamente a nadie" ni "jamás participé en la selección de ningún judío a las cámaras de gas".

Tras la captura de Eichmann, Mengele emprendió una larga travesía con su esposa y su hijastro, Karl Heinz. Sus rastros se detectaron en Brasil, Suiza, Egipto y en un monasterio de la isla griega de Kythnos, donde la policía se perdió de arrestarlo por una cuestión de horas. Presuntamente agotados por las tensiones de la fuga,

su esposa y su hijastro lo abandonaron en Europa. Martha María Weill se estableció en Marano, Italia, donde se encuentra la sucursal de la firma Karl Mengele e hijos. Karl Heinz, por su parte, regresó a Günzburg para hacerse cargo de la dirección de la empresa.

Desde 1965 en adelante, rumores de su presencia alteraron periódicamente toda la región sudamericana.

Josef Mengele tiene hoy 74 años y sufre de hipertensión. En términos jurídicos es un apátrida, después que el gobierno paraguayo cancelara su ciudadanía en 1979. ¿Contribuirán la campaña Internacional y la jugosa recompensa a su captura? Algunos, como Simon Wiesenthal, piensan que la promesa de tanto dinero puede empujar a sus propios

guardias a venderlo. Otros, como el ex jefe del Mossad Israelí, Isser Harel, piensan que la publicidad es negativa y que la única forma de atraparlo es "a través de una operación realizada por profesionales".

Los "profesionales" parecen compartir este último punto de vista. Dai Dye, director ejecutivo de la revista Soldier of Fortune, una publicación dirigida a mercenarios, comentó la semana pasada a la revista Newsweek: "lo único que tanto ruido va a lograr es que el tipo desaparezca, si es que está vivo. De modo que los verdaderos profesionales se mueren de risa con la historia".

Marlo Diamant
Corresponsal en Nueva York

Mengele era uno de los tres médicos más conocidos en los campos de exterminio nazis. Tenía el grado de Hauptsturmführer (capitán) y pertenecía al contingente de médicos de élite que decidía la suerte de los prisioneros a la llegada de los trenes. Algunos iban directamente a las cámaras de gas, otros eran retenidos para experimentos que llegaban a ser de una crueldad infinita. Catorce años después de su desaparición oficial (en Frankfurt, 1959), el juez Robert Müller, de la Cámara I, declaró que Mengele juntaba una habilidad como cirujano a una depravación y de locura homicida. Cuenta que un día lo mató, ante los ojos de su madre, una señora Süssman. También mató a dos gemelos gitanos, y hecer en la autopsia algunas cosas muy peculiares. De haber tratado a los seres humanos como animales, a sacrificar un experimento de laboratorio.

Después de la guerra, Mengele vivió en la pensión de su padre hasta que su rostro apareció en numerosos testimonios sobre nazis más buscados. Entonces huyó, pasando por Austria, Italia, España y después la Argentina, donde habría llegado en 1954, donde presumiblemente comenzó con el apoyo tácito del gobierno de entonces (segunda presidencia peronista). Pero el primer documento registrado es del 27 de octubre de 1956, cuando obtuvo en la Argentina la cédula de identidad N° 3940484.

Desde su llegada a la Argentina comenzó a utilizar diversos nombres (Gregor Schklastro, Hans Gregor Gregori y otros) además del suyo, luego recopilados en el dossier de Interpol en París. El apellido real fue mantenido en Alemania, donde sigue existiendo la fábrica de tractores Mengoni que a su vez parece proporcionar alguna seguridad económica.

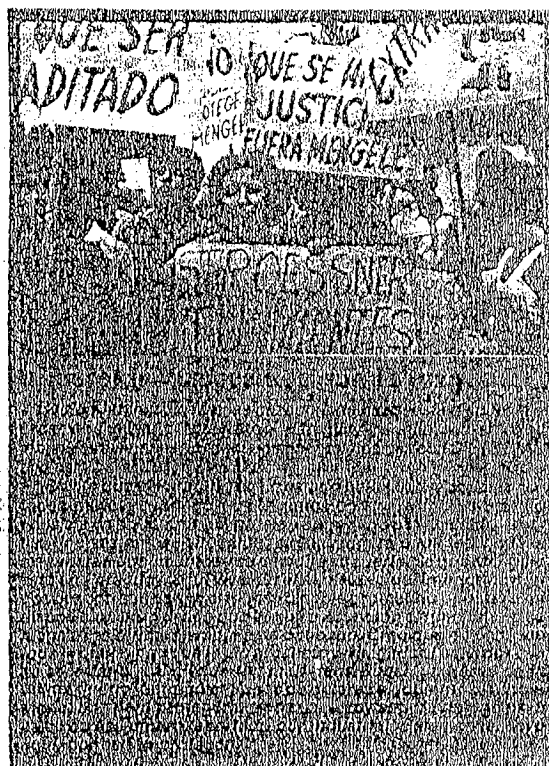
Es el último de los criminales de guerra prófugos. Vivió en la Argentina, donde ejerció la medicina practicando abortos. Fue detenido a causa de la muerte de una paciente y a las dos horas quedó en libertad.

ya que por medios desconocidos le hacen llegar dinero.

Mengela comenzó a ejercer como médico en Buenos Aires, instalándose en la calle Sarriente 1875 de Olivos. Luego se mudó a una residencia más elegante en Virrey Vértiz 970, de Vicente López. En esa segunda etapa tenía ya una reputación como especialista en abortos. Pero en 1958 tuvo un percance, cuando murió una joven a la que había intervenido. Aunque Mengela fue detenido, quedó libre dos horas después. Un amigo se había presentado ante el comisario con un paquete presumiblemente lleno de dinero, con lo cual Mengela escapó. Dejó Buenos Aires, abandonando a su mujer Martha y a un hijo varón. Entonces viajó al Paraguay con pasaporte alemán y con su verdadero nombre. Entró en ese país el 2 de octubre de 1958, con una visa válida por noventa días. Un día antes de que venciera, el 1º de enero de 1959, desapareció de Asunción y llegó a Bariloche, que sería uno de sus refugios favoritos. Vivió allí cuatro meses, y se le vio paseando por las montañas con pantalones de cuero, tiradores bordados y sombrero tirolés. Su excursión favorita era al cerro Catedral.

En octubre 1959 Mengela volvió al Paraguay con visa de inmigrante. Obtuvo la nacionalidad paraguaya en una discreta ceremonia a la que asistieron el doctor César Augusto Sanabria y otras dos personas que figuran como Alexander von Eckstein y Werner Jung. En el acto recibió una cédula de identidad, N° 293.348, y un permiso de trabajo.

Esta nacionalización era legal, de el sentido de que Mengela no estaba aún requiendo por la justicia de ningún país. El mandato de arresto, cursado por el gobierno alemán, no había sido transmitido a la Argentina ni al Paraguay ni a ninguno de los otros países. El 13 de noviembre de 1960 la Embajada Alemana en Asunción solicitó



al ministerio paraguayo respectivo la autorización para consultar el expediente Mengela, trámite previo y necesario para un pedido de extradición.

La Interpol fue más rápida para solicitar los antecedentes. Ante la amenaza de ser expulsado, Mengela desapareció de Asunción, volvió a Bariloche y se alojó en un hotel regentado por un alemán amigo suyo, en las cercanías de San Carlos. Pero no sabía que estaba saltando de la sartén al fuego. En esos días llegaba a Buenos Aires el incógnito comando israelí que capturaría a Adolf Eichmann, y un grupo de jóvenes que venía decidido a matar a Mengela. Pero mientras el primer grupo tenía datos y planes, el se-

gundo trabajaba a ciegas. Lo habían vigilado en Paraguay, pero un integrante del grupo apareció estrangulado.

Sabiéndose buscado, Mengela pasó a la casa de su amigo el doctor Alexander Léner en Santa Catalina (Brasil), pero pocos meses después volvió a Bariloche. Allí alquiló un cuarto a veinte kilómetros de la ciudad y a novecientos metros de altura. Entonces se llamaba Franz Fischer. El lugar le fue especialmente agradable cuando allí llegó una hermosa rubia alemana llamada Nora Aldot (nacida en Francfort, 1911). No había llegado por casualidad, sino inducida por otros nazis de Bariloche. Ambos se hicieron inseparables.

Nada permitía desconfiar de Nora, pero Mengela no dejaba detalle librado al azar. Un día en que ambos salieron a pasear por la montaña, un guardaespaldas revisó el cuarto de Nora para confirmar si era efectivamente quien decía ser. Ese y otro guardaespaldas partieron en busca de la pareja. Más tarde, los hombres volvieron y la mujer no. En un café cerca de la ruta, uno de ellos explicó en mal español y con tonos desesperados, que la señora había dado un traspié y caído en un precipicio. La tragedia tenía una explicación. En un doble fondo de una maleta de Nora había aparecido un pasaporte israelí N° 106.697, a nombre de Nora Eddad, nacida efectivamente en Francfort pero domiciliada en Tel Aviv. En el episodio, Mengela se había librado de un seguro asesinato.

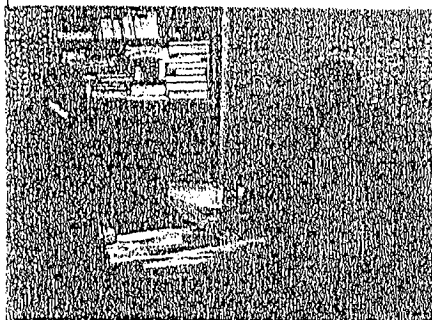
Nadie perdió la vida en la persecución de Eichmann, pero cuatro personas murieron detrás de Mengela.

La acción de la justicia por encontrar a Mengela fue una mezcla de loable asiduidad y deplorable ineficacia. Los alemanes despreciaron la pista paraguaya y lo buscaron en la Argentina. El único juez argentino que se mostró impresionado por el asunto fue el doctor Jorge Luque, quien decidió encontrar a Mengela y enviarlo a Alemania. Sus investigaciones se orientaron entre otras cosas a las casas que había ocupado.

En la de Sarriente 1875, Olivos, la policía encontró a la viuda Bertha Pantz, quien dijo no haber oído hablar nunca de Mengela. En Vicente López encontraron a un matrimonio alemán, que afirmó que Mengela jamás había vivido en esa casa. El comisario Dingreville, por propia iniciativa, buscó después en la calle Monasterio 1969, donde Heinrich Quastén (alemán, 40 años) afirmó que Mengela no había vivido en ese lugar. Pero admitió conocerlo y envió a la policía a la casa de la

Los cazadores de nazis lo detectaron en el Paraguay, donde vive solo. Dos divorcios y varios amoríos culminaron en la soledad más absoluta. Sus periódicos viajes al Brasil lo alejan oportunamente del peligro.

Simon Wiesenthal: "La justicia siempre llega"



Wiesenthal con SIETE DIAS. "Lo queremos vivo".

Simon Wiesenthal dirige el Centro de Documentación Judicial de Viena, una organización de bien público que funciona en el primer piso de un edificio de oficinas, en la calle Salztor, en la capital austríaca. Fue creado en 1946 y se mantiene con contribuciones provenientes de todo el mundo. Wiesenthal, responsable de la captura de varios miles de criminales de guerra, tiene en la actualidad 76 años.

—¿En qué estado se encuentran las investigaciones sobre el paradero de Josef Mengele?

—Como resultado de mi acción, el gobierno paraguayo canceló en 1979 la ciudadanía de Mengele. El gobierno de Asunción también libró una orden de detención contra él, de modo que el presidente Stroessner asegura que en estos momentos Josef Mengele no se encuentra en su territorio. El paso siguiente fue establecer una recompensa por la información que conduzca a la captura. Esto ha sido así porque, no se puede ofrecer una recompensa a la policía.

—¿No teme que la recompensa pueda ser un arma de doble filo? ¿Que lleve a Mengele a desaparecer una vez más o que provoque que un informante potencial pueda luego ser objeto de atentados?

—No, porque la recompensa vale igualmente para información anónima. Cualquiera puede dar la información a través de un abogado o de un escribano público. En cuanto a que Mengele vuelva a escapar, siempre ha estado escapando. La diferencia es que la promesa de dinero puede llevar a que sus propios guardias decidan venderlo.

—¿Tiene algún indicio de dónde se encuentra?

—Hemos venido acumulando información desde hace varios años. En mayo de 1979, por ejemplo, se sabe que circuló por varios países, incluyendo el Paraguay, Chile y la Argentina. A fines de 1982 lo localizamos en una colonia menonita, en la frontera entre Bolivia y el Paraguay.

—¿Qué sabe de las inversiones de Mengele en la Argentina?

—Bien, la familia Mengele es muy rica. Como usted seguramente sabrá, con dueño de una importante empresa de maquinarias agrícolas en Günzburg y la filial para América del Sur se encuentra en Buenos Aires. Es a través de esa canal que Mengele recibe dinero.

—¿Tuvo usted algún contacto con miembros de la familia Mengele?

—Conoci a Karl Heinz, que es el hijastro de Josef Mengele. Estudió en Viena, es una excelente persona, no tengo nada contra él.

—¿Quién defiende los intereses de Mengele en Alemania?

—Tiene un abogado en Frankfurt, Fritz Steinacker, que formó parte del equipo que defendió a Adolf Eichmann. El sabe perfectamente dónde se encuentra Mengele.

—¿Existe algún contacto entre Mengele y los miembros de su familia en Günzburg?

—Hace algunos años se realizó una reunión de toda la familia en Bermuda.

—¿Cambió Mengele su aspecto físico? ¿Se hizo cirugía plástica?

—No, de ninguna manera.

—¿Sigue viviendo bajo su mismo nombre?

—Suele utilizar nueve nombres diferentes. Su favorito es "Doctor Gregory", bajo este alias ejerció como médico en Buenos Aires.

—¿Obtuvo Mengele alguna ciudadanía desde que lo Paraguay le fue cancelada?

—No, en la actualidad es un apátrida, pero eso no le impide moverse, naturalmente. Hay tantas colonias alemanas en Brasil, el Paraguay, Chile y la Argentina, que trasladarse, para él, no representa ninguna dificultad. Uno de sus lugares favoritos es Bariloche. Allí tuvo numerosos amoríos. Tuvo una oportunidad de hablar con varias de sus amantes que, por supuesto, lo abandonaron cuando supieron de quién se trataba.

—Mengele tiene en la actualidad 74 años. ¿Cuál es su estado de salud?

—Hace tiempo que está bastante enfermo.

—Señor Wiesenthal, ¿qué es lo que trata de probar con su trabajo?

—No se trata de probar nada: se trata de advertir, de enviar un mensaje. Quiero hacer sonar una advertencia a los criminales de mañana, algunos de los cuales tal vez están naciendo hoy mismo. Quiero que sepan que el hecho de que alguien logre lugar por 30 o 40 años y encuentre un refugio a cinco mil kilómetros de la escena del crimen, no significa que no vaya a pagar en algún momento por su crimen. El tiempo y la distancia no significan nada, la justicia siempre llega al final.

Marlo Clement (Corresponsal en Nueva York)

Virrey Vértiz 960, Vicente López, provincia de Buenos Aires. En esta casa vivió Mengele durante años. Sus actuales ocupantes compraron la propiedad a la filial argentina de la metalúrgica alemana Mengele e hijos.

calle 5 de junio 1074. Esta fue la pensión en que habría residido Eichmann al llegar a la Argentina. La dueña, Bergilde Jarmann, dijo que Mengele nunca había llegado entre sus huéspedes, pero sí le permitió conocer a la esposa, María, y al hijo, Karl Heinz, de 20 años.

Desde 1960 la investigación se hizo muy lenta. En 1966 un grupo de jóvenes judíos del Brasil, al dió cazarlo. Mientras una parte de ellos permaneció en la zona, la otra se fue hacia el Paraná cerca de dos días. Allí se partieron a investigar en la zona. Después sus cadáveres fueron encontrados en el río. Habían sido golpeados. En el verano de 1967 un austríaco de nacimiento, se hacía llamar Erich y que era la verdad Erich Erdstein, agente de la policía del estado de Paraná (Brasil), emprendió una propia cruzada. Había sabido que lo encontraba en el estado de Santa Catalina, en la casa del doctor Alexander Lenard, médico farmacéutico de origen húngaro. Pudo haberse precipitado hacia la casa Lenard y Mengele no habría escapado, pero Erich quiso hacer su negocio y cometió un error imperdonable: contó su secreto al corresponsal de uno de los principales diarios alemanes, al cual vendió "la historia del siglo". Luego se detuvo aun en Curitiba para tratar esta vez con Francisco Camargo, reporter jefe del más grande diario de Paraná. Cuando llegó al escondite de Mengele, éste había desaparecido.

Erich no se desanimó y continuó buscando a Mengele que se había ido hacia el norte en el rápido y pequeño Simca de Lenard. Seguramente, el 13 de septiembre de 1968 lo encontró y lo mató. La historia en la cual relata esta muerte está llena de detalles. Sin embargo, se ha constatado que el doctor Mengele no murió y que milagrosamente sobrevivió a este ataque.

Kevin Michel Capé enquête, JOS.

Where Is Dr. Mengele? (BF)

One of the most bizarre manhunts of the 20th century is reaching a climax in the Parana River jungle on the border of Paraguay and Brazil. It is there that Dr. Josef Mengele, the so-called "angel of death" of Auschwitz, the Nazi concentration camp, reportedly resides in hiding. But there are strong indications that time is finally running out for Mengele, a fugitive for nearly 35 years.

A host of pressures for Mengele's extradition has been brought to bear during the past year on the government of Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner, who has been giving refuge to Nazi war criminals since he came to power in 1954. Last month, the Stroessner regime announced that it would ask its Supreme Court to annul Mengele's citizenship. In a regime as authoritarian as

The writer teaches economics and history at the John F. Kennedy School in Surrey, England.

Stroessner's, such a request to the judiciary is tantamount to a *fait accompli*. Mengele has thus been declared *persona non grata* in his homeland of 20 years.

Stroessner's sudden change springs from the new Paraguayan desire for diplomatic respectability. One of the most hopeful trends in recent Latin American politics has been the efforts of dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, Brazil—and now Paraguay—to present themselves to the world as less repressive societies. The international impotence of authoritarian Brazil, for instance, contrasts sharply with the influence of relatively democratic nations such as Venezuela and Mexico, and this has not gone unnoticed by Latin American juntas.

Though the apparatus of fascism is still intact in the Latin American dictatorships, there has been a drop in the officially sanctioned kidnappings, torture and arrest of political opponents. Latin American juntas now hope that the United States and Western Europe will be more easily persuaded to offer the technological aid desperately needed for economic development.

From a strictly economic point of view, one of Paraguay's most desirable potential trading partners would be West Germany. (Stroessner, incidentally, is the son of a German immigrant.) But a thorn in West German-Paraguayan relations continues to be the German request for Mengele's extradition, officially "pending" since 1962, with Paraguayan officials pretending to know nothing of Mengele's whereabouts. The latter is a rather dubious claim, since the Nazi doctor has been seen in Paraguay by scores of wit-

nesses and was tracked to a remote hideout on the Paraguayan-Brazilian border last winter by a team of British Broadcasting Corporation reporters.

As for Mengele himself, his fate is likely to become a bit precarious now that he has lost the patronage of his chief protector. Still, one should not underestimate the ability of Mengele's network of friends to find yet another Latin American dictator willing to take in the former Auschwitz doctor. Finding Mengele a new haven will not be made easier by the fact that the doctor's murderous career bears little resemblance to the fictionalized account of Ira Levin's book, "The Boys From Brazil." The novel was subsequently transformed by Hollywood into a science-fiction fantasy, in which Mengele conceived a plot to clone dozens of young Adolf Hitlers and unleash them on an unsuspecting world. The trouble with such dramatizations is that, by suspending reality, they tend to distract the public from the real facts about Mengele's grisly career.

As one of the chief physicians at Auschwitz, Mengele became steadily more drawn to a Faustian fate of complicity in the murders of hundreds of thousands. It was Mengele who separated arriving inmates by a flick of his finger—right was the path for the healthier men and women fit to work; left meant the beginning of the inexorable march to the gas chamber.

But Mengele gained even greater notoriety from his experiments on twins. One of his favorite techniques was to separate twins who arrived at the death camp, feed them relatively well, then perform various experiments on them. When they had served his purposes, Mengele unceremoniously murdered them and dissected their corpses. It was all done in the service of propagating the so-called Aryan race, a project much favored by Nazi theoreticians.

Today Mengele remains both the most sought-after and the most elusive of Nazi war criminals. But whether he will ever have to face legal tribunals in Europe remains an open question. Certainly many in the Western world would like to deal with the "angel of death" in an extra-legal fashion. But whatever Mengele's ultimate fate, at least two hopeful signs can be detected from his loss of Paraguayan citizenship. The first is that Paraguay's increasing desire for diplomatic respectability may lighten the load of oppression borne heretofore by its citizens. The second is that there will now be a new discomfort in the serenity of Mengele's Latin American retirement—the kind of discomfort the doctor so richly deserves.

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WASA POST
A18 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1985

U.S. Search For Mengele Is Expanded More Agencies Join Hunt for Nazi

By Thomas O'Toole
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department has enlisted at least five federal agencies in the search that began last month for fugitive Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele, a top departmental official said today.

The FBI, the State Department, the Army, the entire intelligence community, are helping with this investigation, Stephen S. Trott, assistant attorney general for the criminal division, told the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on juvenile justice today.

"We also have the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Marshals Service assisting our Office of Special Investigations help find us and this man, if indeed he is still living."

Trott praised the move to bring the U.S. marshals into the hunt for Mengele, who is believed to have escaped from Europe after World War II and gone to live in Paraguay under an assumed name.

The marshals have become very adept at bringing fugitives to justice, finding and arresting almost 2,000 fugitives in the country since 1980, Trott said.

Trott said justice also is getting full cooperation from the intelligence services in West Germany, France, Israel and from a number of South American countries. (Some sources have linked Mengele to South American drug traffic as recently as the 1970s.)

"I can't talk yet about Paraguay," Trott said. "We're not at that stage in our investigation, and it would be premature to say whether Paraguay is cooperating or not. On past occasions, Paraguay has said it considers the Mengele case closed."

There are outstanding warrants for Mengele's arrest in West Germany and Israel.

As chief physician at Auschwitz, Mengele is said to have had a role in the murder of 400,000 Jews at the Nazi death camp and to have performed surgical experiments on more than 200 of the camp's inmates, mostly involving Jews, gypsies, Poles and women. Mengele was known as the "Angel of Death" because he decided who at Auschwitz would be killed.

Mengele Can Be Seized, Justice Dept. Says

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) — If the United States can track down Dr. Josef Mengele in a foreign country, it can probably detain him and turn him over to one of the nations that wants to try him for Nazi war crimes, the Justice Department told Congress today. Although Dr. Mengele is not wanted

by the United States for any specific crimes, the "rule of law is very broad" and will permit him to be detained by United States officials, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Trott told the Senate Judiciary juvenile justice subcommittee today. "What the rule of law is will depend on the situation," Mr. Trott said, noting that the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of cases in which a fugitive was grabbed outside the United States and returned to this country. Dr. Mengele selected new arrivals at Auschwitz to be sent to the gas chamber and carried out pseudo-medical experiments.

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Friday, August 10, 1979

THE WASHINGTON POST

Mengele Hunt Focuses

By David F. Belnap
Los Angeles Times

BUENOS AIRES — Josef Mengele, a notorious Nazi death camp doctor and until now a naturalized citizen of Paraguay, still spends much of his time there, according to sources in the Israeli community here.

"He travels, visiting Brazil and other border countries and even Europe, so he could be away from Paraguay during a given week or month," said one Israeli source. "But 'home' is Paraguay and he returns there after his travels."

That view is shared by Simon Wiesenthal of Vienna, who has spent a lifetime tracing Nazi fugitives documenting their whereabouts.

Interviewed by telephone by Ultima Hora, a newspaper in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion, Wiesenthal said Mengele "lived and still lives in Paraguay."

Public interest in Mengele was reawakened not long ago when Wiesenthal disclosed that he had asked U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to try to persuade Paraguay to honor a longstanding request for Mengele's extradition to West Germany to stand trial.

Paraguayan authorities replied through Waldheim that Mengele, known as the "angel of death" for his genocidal activities at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland during World War II, no longer lived in that country.

They said Mengele had not lived there since 1960.

Tuesday, in an attempt to prove the point, Paraguayan Attorney General Clotildo Jimenez asked the nation's supreme court to annul Mengele's citizenship papers on the grounds that he had forfeited his rights by being outside the country for more than two years. On Wednesday, the court complied and annulled his citizenship.

But Israeli sources here have shrugged off Paraguay's assertion that Mengele no longer lives there as "the usual answer."

"They've been saying that for years — just like they used to say he'd never become a citizen," one spokesman said.

Not until an enterprising researcher



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

in 1970 turned up a copy of the pertinent document, did Paraguayan authorities tacitly concede that Mengele had been a naturalized citizen since 1959.

But every inquiry, official or otherwise, on the fugitive's whereabouts yields a flat official denial that he is living in Paraguay.

A reporter from Argentina who visited Paraguay last month related: "I went for an appointment with a government information official and before I could even open my mouth to ask a question, he said, 'Mengele's not in Paraguay and we don't know where he his.'"

In June, Miguel Angel Bestard, a Ministry of Interior official, told another journalist, "I deny categorically that Mengele is in Paraguay. It's absolutely false and a slander against this country."

American Ambassador Robert White told the same visitor, "I don't know whether Mengele is here or not, but if I were hunted the way he is, I'd

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on Paraguay

go where I had some protection such as citizenship."

[Resolutions have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate calling for an official request to Paraguay to facilitate extradition of Mengele if he is in Paraguay.]

Mengele clearly has been protected in Paraguay. His pursuers believe that one of the reasons he has been protected is that President Alfredo Stroessner, the country's strongman ruler since 1954, is the son of an immigrant German cavalry officer.

The nature and geography of the country also conspire to furnish protection. Its population of just 2 million is scattered over a land area almost as large as California. Even in the capital of Asuncion, with 400,000 population, a stranger making inquiries comes quickly to the attention of the neighbors—and the authorities.

The eastern third of the country between the Paraguay and Parana rivers is an area of green, rolling hills and some of the world's most fertile land for subtropical farming. It is the home of a majority of the 30,000 German nationals who live in Paraguay.

Mengele has been reported "positively sighted" in a village named Hohenau in the southeastern extreme of that region, and in the coffee-growing center of Pedro Juan Caballero, near its most northeasterly point.

Israeli sources here concede they do not know the exact location of his present refuge, but they believe it is somewhere between Hohenau and Pedro Juan Caballero, probably along the Parana River that forms parts of Paraguay's boundary with Brazil and Argentina and affords quick access into either of those countries.

Unlike many Nazi fugitives, Mengele made little effort to hide his identity during the early years after the war.

He lived openly in Bavaria until the early 1950s when he traveled to Argentina where the late Gen. Juan D. Peron had offered asylum to a host of Nazis on the run.

Mengele continued to live under his own name here until the mid-1960s, representing Karl Mengele & Sons, a Bavarian farm machinery firm managed by his brother. But he took the

precaution of acquiring Paraguayan citizenship after a West German court issued a warrant for his arrest in July 1959.

Acting on the warrant, West Germany asked Argentina for his extradition, but the petition was returned without action in August 1959 on the technical ground that it should have been drafted in Spanish rather than German.

Official records in Paraguay show that "Jose Mengele" received an identity document from that country's authorities in October 1959. A month later, he received Paraguayan citizenship by order of the Supreme Court.

He continued to live in Argentina, however, until the spectacular 1960 abduction here of Adolf Eichmann by Israeli secret agents, who spirited Eichmann to Israel for trial and later execution for his key role in the Holocaust.

Israeli secret service chief Isser Harel, who personally directed the pursuit and capture of Eichmann in Argentina, wanted to seize Mengele, too, but was unable to divert the time and resources away from his principal mission.

In "The House on Garibaldi Street," his book on the Eichmann operation, Harel describes the home in Vicente Lopez, a middle-class suburb of Buenos Aires, where Mengele lived until just before the Eichmann capture.

"Of all the evil figures who played principal parts in the macabre drama of the attempt to wipe out the Jewish people," Harel wrote of Mengele, "he was conspicuous for his abominable enjoyment of his role as death's messenger."

After news of the Eichmann capture was made public, Argentina's press clamored for Mengele's arrest, and in July 1960, authorities ordered police to pick him up. But it was already far too late. Israeli agents traced him to a hotel in Asuncion and from there to Hohenau.

Mengele, 49 when he fled Argentina, is 68 today. In the years between, he is assumed to have changed his appearance, which once included blond hair and moustache. He is known to have used 11 false names in that time, with false documents to match.

Living in Paraguay



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Since West German authorities in 1973 identified a skeleton found near Berlin as that of Dep. Fuehrer Martin Bormann, Mengele has been the world's most wanted Nazi fugitive.

Over the years, he has been reported seen a number of times in southern Brazil, home of 80,000 German nationals and more than 2 million persons of German descent. Wiesenthal has documented several of Mengele's trips to Europe where his wife and son still live.

These include a visit to Germany in the 1960s for his father's funeral and a vacation near Torremolinos, Spain, where Wiesenthal says he came within two days of catching up with him in 1970.

The veteran Nazi hunter once said that "hunting Mengele is a dangerous business and several men who tried to do so have lost their lives."

Among Nazi war criminals known or suspected to have taken refuge in South America, only two have ever been returned to face trial after successful extradition proceedings.

Gerhard Johannes Bohne, a lawyer

accused of involvement in killings and illegal surgical operations in Germany in 1939 and 1940, left Argentina in custody of German authorities in 1966 after the Supreme Court here granted his extradition.

Franz Stangl, commander of the Treblinka death camp in Poland, was extradited in 1967 from Brazil where he had lived and worked for 17 years. Convicted of murder, he later died in prison.

Extradition proceedings are still under way in Brazil against Gustav Franz Wagner, 68, accused of sending hundreds of thousands of Jews to their deaths while serving as deputy commander of the Sobibor concentration camp in Poland. Wagner was arrested last year in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and is held at present in Brasilia, the nation's capital.

Doctor to Popes Dies

ROME—Retired Papal physician Mario Fontana died Monday night, one year to the day after signing the death certificate of Pope Paul VI, his family said Tuesday.

Fontana, 75, served three Popes—John XXIII, Paul VI, and his successor John Paul I—who died only six weeks after Paul VI.

Los Angeles Times

Forest Fire Hits C Area in Spain, 2

GERONA, Spain (AP)—A wind-whipped forest fire swept through a camping site near Spain's northeastern coast Tuesday, killing at least 22 persons, including four children wading in a canal, police reported.

They feared the death toll would climb as forest rangers, firemen and civil guards searched the charred camping area near the resort town of Lloret de Mar, on Spain's famous Costa Brava, 40 miles northeast of Barcelona.

Police said the bodies of 12 men, six women and four children were found after the flames jumped the Blanes-Lloret de Mar highway and encircled the campground, trapping the victims. All were believed to be Spaniards, but the Costa Brava also draws tens of thousands of foreign tourists each year.

Officials said arson was suspected. "It appears the fire started in three separate places and at the same time.

Because the miles between the camps identified the victim of the fire as Juan Vidal.

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